

Convention gets gift from Texas foundation

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board noted receipt of a \$25,000 per year gift from Christ is Our Salvation, a foundation in Texas. The gift will aid pastors of new churches in amounts not to exceed \$5,000 per year for any church. The fund will be allocated on a three-year phaseout and all grants will be recommended by the pastoral aid committee of the board.

In other business, the board voted to refurbish the Baptist Building's chapel at a cost of \$29,500, a move which will allow more flexibility for meeting space there. Funds for the refurbishing are already in escrow. And they voted to spend up to \$30,000 for a new pier at Gulfshore which will help prevent sand from filling up the marina there.

In other business, the board voted to trade the executive director's car at a cost of \$6,148, to escrow from savings in the 1987 budget funds for telephone and general services expenses to continue redecoration of the Baptist Building, to purchase a colator at \$4,000, and to grant a \$2,500 disaster relief check to West End Church, West Point, which recently burned.

At the earlier Executive Committee meeting, Bill Duncan, pastor of First Church, Booneville, was re-elected chairman; Jerry Mixon, pastor of First Church, Winona, was elected vice chairman; and Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Quitman, was elected secretary.

Alliance considers starting seminary

By Kathleen McClain

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP) — Reacting to recent turmoil at Southeastern Seminary, the moderate Southern Baptist Alliance has voted to study the feasibility of starting a new Baptist seminary in the Southeast.

A task force will study the possibility of using professors now at Southeastern as the core faculty for the new seminary or divinity school, said Alliance President Henry Crouch.

The new institution would be based on the Alliance's founding principles, including inclusiveness for women and minorities and cooperation with other Christian faiths, according to the Alliance's executive committee vote, Crouch reported.

"This could expand theological education for Baptists beyond anything we've ever done before," he said. "I think the money is there. I think the leadership is there."

Crouch said he already had spoken

with Thomas Hearn, president of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., about creating a divinity school on that campus. He also reported discussions with officials at Mercer University in Macon, Ga.; Stetson University in DeLand, Fla.; and the University of Richmond in Virginia.

The vacant campus of Tift College in Forsyth, Ga., was mentioned as a temporary home for a "seminary in exile" should faculty and students agree to move from Southeastern to a new location.

The Alliance task force is headed by Mahan Siler, pastor of Pullen Memorial Church, Raleigh. The task force is to study the possibilities, with a report scheduled for the Jan. 11 meeting of the Alliance board.

Action by the Alliance followed weeks of conversation about establishing an alternative to

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SBC President Rogers seeks recommendations

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Adrian Rogers, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, is seeking recommendations of people to be nominated for key SBC committees.

In an open letter to Southern Baptists, Rogers wrote, "The important task of choosing the nominees for the 1988 Committee on Committees, Resolutions Committee, Credentials Committee, and Tellers Committee is under way."

As convention president, Rogers will appoint the key committees that will serve during the 1988 annual meeting, June 13-15, in San Antonio. He appoints the Committee on Committees and Resolutions Committee "in conference" with the two vice presidents, the Credentials Committee "in consultation" with the vice presidents and the Tellers Committee

"in consultation" with the SBC registration secretary.

The Committee on Committees nominates the Committee on Nominations, and any other committee not otherwise provided for; the Resolutions Committee processes and reports all resolutions submitted at the annual meeting; the Credentials Committee oversees registration; and the Tellers Committee is responsible for the tabulation of votes taken at the convention.

Rogers added in his open letter: "I am committed to choosing the very best Southern Baptists for these positions. This will be accomplished most effectively with your prayerful support and personal recommendations under the guidance of the Holy Spirit."

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The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Published Since 1877

Wm. Carey's coast campus dedicates Parker Hall

By Anne McWilliams

The Board of Trustees and the Board of Development of William Carey College met together December 1 on the campus of Carey on the Coast. The special joint meeting, held at the request of President Ralph Noonkester, was linked with the formal opening of the new Parker Hall and with a Christmas Madrigal Dinner presented for the trustees and other guests by the William Carey College Winters School of Music.

The trustees approved the administration's recommendation of a "Two-Plus-Carey" agreement with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College whereby area junior college graduates may enroll at Carey on the Coast to complete baccalaureate degrees without the loss of credit. In line with this arrangement, the trustees authorized new academic majors in the sciences, radiological technology, English as a second language, computer technology, and other liberal arts courses.

Parker Hall, conference center and classroom building, was named in honor of Richard Wayne Parker, attorney and businessman of Jackson, and in memory of his father, the late Richard T. Parker. The attorney's mother, Mrs. Ruby Hester, cut the ribbon in the 6 p.m. ceremony on December 1. Also present to take part in the building dedication were Parker's wife, Zeita, and his sister,

Mrs. Brenda Hilbun.

Billy McKay of Belzoni, the newly elected chairman of the Board of Trustees, led in the prayer of dedication. Larry Hasbrouck of the Coast campus presented to President Noonkester a special United States flag.

President Noonkester introduced other special guests, including Bobby Garvin, vice president of instructional affairs at Gulf Coast Community College; Glen Cagle, vice president, Jeff Davis campus of Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College; William Tompkins of Tompkins and Associates of Jackson, architect for the construction and renovation of Parker Hall; and Arvah C. McClendon of McClendon Builders in Gulfport, the building contractor.

Noonkester in his address before the ribbon cutting, said "The dedication of Parker Hall means that William Carey College has taken another step in fulfilling its commitment to provide a residential liberal arts college campus on the Mississippi Gulf Coast which provides complete instruction for both undergraduate and graduate degrees." Earlier he had revealed, "We are now launching a full development of this campus."

The Parker Hall project completed Phase I of the coast campus development, which included four dormitories, renovation of the administration building and art gallery, renovation of

McMullan Hall for classroom, lab, and library; and refurbishing of the campus swimming pool.

Parker Hall will provide a place for large and small group conferences in business, education, religion, mental and physical health, and other special interest areas. Also it will provide space for drama productions, art exhibits, and community gatherings. In addition, the building contains classrooms and science laboratories.

Phase II, said Noonkester, is already on the drawing board.

The trustees in giving their approval to the Two-Plus-Carey Plan were also voting for the replacement of part-time faculty members with the hiring of four new faculty members by the fall session of 1988 in speech, communications, and theatre; computer technology; chemistry and physics; and counseling psychology, and also for the recommendation that some Hattiesburg faculty and staff be given dual assignments, on the coast and in Hattiesburg.

The faculty and administration of the William Carey College are now involved in a self-study required by the Southern Association of Colleges for the reaffirmation of accreditation.

When the boards meet again on January 28, 1988, according to Noonkester, they are to discuss a restructuring of curriculum and a pruning of course offerings to fit

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Ralph Noonkester, at right, president of William Carey College, holds the scissors with which Mrs. Ruby Hester, center, has just cut the ribbon at the opening of Parker Hall at Carey on the Coast, and has turned to greet a friend from the audience. The building was named in honor of Mrs. Hester's late husband, Richard T. Parker, and for her son, Richard Wayne Parker, Jackson attorney and businessman. The son and his wife, Zeita, and sister, Mrs. Brenda Hilbun, are in the group to Mrs. Hester's right.

November gift exceed 1986's

Mississippi Baptist churches, participating in the unified budget plan called the Cooperative Program, have given a total of \$16,493,837 thus far in 1987, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

The total for November was \$1,229,324, which is up from the November 1986 figure of \$1,101,305.

Total gifts for the year are up \$614,980 over the first 11 months of the previous year. And to make the 1987 budget goal of \$18,150,000, December gifts will have to total \$1,656,163. Mississippi Baptists have given that much in four other months of 1987.

Cooperative Program gifts go to missions and education causes for Mississippi Baptists and for other Southern Baptists programs around the world.

State convention analysis:

PAC, AIDS pique most interest

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists' Public Affairs Committee and the AIDS crisis came to mind most often when messengers thought about expressing their opinions during 37 Baptist state conventions this fall.

The PAC and AIDS drew the attention of eight state conventions that passed resolutions about them. Next came abortion and gambling, followed by a host of other issues.

The PAC — an 18-member body through which Southern Baptists participate in the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and which now is empowered to express its own views on public affairs issues — attracted attention because of two actions it took earlier this year.

In August, the PAC voted 7-5 to endorse Robert H. Bork as a nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court. Then in October, immediately following a stormy meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee in which the larger body rejected most of its initiatives, the PAC voted 8-4 to request the Southern Baptist Convention to dissolve its institutional and financial ties with the Baptist Joint Committee.

Seven states took exception to the endorsement of a candidate/nominee for public office. For example, Missouri's resolution said, "Baptists have historically refrained from endorsing or opposing candidates for public office but have openly supported or criticized actions of public officials which impinge on Baptist principles and interests." It also noted disapproval of "a Baptist entity's endorsement of any person for a civil office: local, state or federal."

Similar measures affirming church-state separation and opposing endorsement were passed in Oklahoma, New York, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

At least five states also addressed the PAC's request for the SBC to dissolve its ties to the Baptist Joint Committee. All of them refuted the idea. Three would continue financial support for the Joint Committee if the SBC severs ties.

Resolutions of support for the SBC's continued participation in the Baptist Joint Committee also were passed in North Carolina and Missouri.

AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome, was addressed by at least eight conventions.

In Illinois, for example, the resolution called AIDS a worldwide menace that reaches across all boundaries and brings suffering to all victims as well as their families and loved ones. It opposed "sexual promiscuity, marital infidelity and the failure of families to teach children to be morally responsible in matters of sexual relationships" and urged churches "to work with families in efforts to teach our children" sexual morality and responsibility.

Additional states that approved AIDS statements are Alabama, Arkansas, Hawaii, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Texas. Abortion and gambling were ad-

ressed by at least seven states each.

West Virginia and Ohio took the strongest stands against abortion. West Virginia previously passed a resolution that opposed abortion for any reason other than to save the life of the mother. This year it expressed opposition to "the cruel, murderous holocaust of abortion on demand, except in cases where the life of the mother is in clear and definite danger." The Ohio measure called for the repeal of legalized abortions.

In Arkansas, messengers defeated an attempt to oppose all abortions except those which save the life of the mother. Instead, they affirmed the convention's stated opposition to abortion which makes exceptions for rape, incest, and saving the mother's life. An Alabama statement opposed abortion on demand but did not mention exceptions. Other conventions that reported anti-abortion resolutions were Kansas-Nebraska, Northern Plains, and Oklahoma.

States that ratified anti-gambling resolutions almost universally did so in response to particular circumstances. For example: Kentucky's newly elected governor campaigned on a promise to bring in a lottery, the Missouri convention's executive board is involved in a lawsuit challenging a multi-state lottery, Arkansas expects a lottery referendum next fall and Florida has been the battleground for legalized gambling for several years.

A host of other issues received attention at the state conventions.

Among them were:

— Southeastern Seminary. Conservatives gained control of the seminary's trustee board this year and initiated changes, particularly how professors are chosen. This has prompted resignations from President W. Randall Lolley, Dean Morris Ashcraft and three senior administrators at the Wake Forest, N.C., school.

Three conventions responded. A Virginia resolution expressed "grave concern for the actions" that led to the resignations. North Carolina voiced "support and affirmation of the present administration, faculty, staff, and student body" of the school. That state joined with Maryland-Delaware, urging trustees to "maintain the rich heritage and tradition" of the seminary.

— Sexuality. Sex education, teen pregnancy, and pornography were stated concerns for at least five conventions. A near-universal theme of such statements was the need for Bible-based sex education that stresses total abstinence of sexual intercourse outside of marriage. States that reported action on the issue included Alabama, Florida, Kansas-Nebraska, Mississippi, and South Carolina.

— Prescott Memorial Church. This congregation in Memphis entered the news this fall when it called a woman, Nancy Hastings Sehested, as pastor and subsequently was disfellowshipped by the local Baptist association of churches.

Virginia Baptists passed a resolution affirming "the right of Prescott Memorial Baptist Church and every other Baptist church to call whomsoever they determine is the God-appointed person as their pastor."

Tennessee Baptists turned down a request to vote on a resolution affirming the Memphis association's action. Alabama postponed, and thus killed action on, a resolution on the role of women in churches.

In Oklahoma, where the association in Muskogee had disfellowshipped a church for having a divorced male pastor, messengers ratified a resolution that affirmed the autonomy of local churches and associations. It noted churches have the right "to form associations and conventions" and the churches may "decide who may or may not be seated as messengers at said associations and conventions."

— Drugs. Distress about drug and alcohol abuse was stated in Florida, Kansas-Nebraska, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

— Other states affirmed the work of Woman's Missionary Union, foreign missions, and against racism and hunger.

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

Statement given after secret meet

ATLANTA (BP) — The text of a statement released to Baptist Press following a meeting Nov. 16 of key conservative leaders in the Southern Baptist Convention is being released verbatim.

The statement:

A number of Southern Baptist laypeople and pastors concerned about peace in the convention met together at the Airport Marriott in Atlanta, Ga., on Nov. 16. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss appropriate responses to the widespread political activity of the "moderates" throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

We are grieved and dismayed at the apparent failure of some to maintain the spirit of the St. Louis convention as reflected by the overwhelming response to the report of the Peace Committee.

Dr. Adrian Rogers was invited to attend and stressed in response his willingness to meet with any group, schedule allowing, interested in establishing the peace and unity of the SBC.

Seven general principles were agreed on by the participants.

1. The possibility for genuine and enduring peace rests ultimately on the reaffirmation of the total reliability of the Word of God in confession and in action.

2. The burden and opportunity for worldwide missions and evangelism

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Shirley: "Manipulation" at Southeastern Seminary

By Don McGregor

As the fate of Southeastern Seminary seemed to be hanging in the balance during a called board of



Shirley

trustees meeting last month, students wore yellow ribbons on their lapels to indicate their support for the administration and faculty and their hope that the school would be allowed to continue in its present vein.

Members of the board of trustees were asked by the students to wear the ribbons. Four did. One of the four was Mississippi's trustee, Robert E. Shirley, pastor of Parkway Church, Tupelo, for a few more days.

Shirley will retire on Dec. 31 after 31 years as pastor of the church.

At that called board meeting, the president and his administrative team at the seminary announced their resignations. The direction of the seminary appears destined to change. Shirley feels that the resignation of Randall Lolley, the president, has been a turning point in Southern Baptist Convention life. "He had pledged to stay until retirement," Shirley said, "but he could not stay. A man of his principles could not stay." Shirley noted that Lolley has said that he "will not be the president of a 'fundamentalist' school."

"It is tragic to see the kids," Shirley said. He predicted that some will leave the ministry altogether and some will stay in the ministry but harbor bitterness throughout their lives, but "all have been hurt." Very few of the students have allowed themselves to be untouched by the events, he noted.

As he was leaving the area following the board meeting, students and adults at the airport saw his yellow ribbon and expressed their thankfulness for his stand, he said. He gets letters every day from alumni associations and other groups and individuals supporting the president, he pointed out.

Shirley said that he saw a little bit of encouragement at the last board meeting compared to the one just before it. In the previous meeting officers of the board had been elected; and the previous chairman, Jesse Chapman, had failed in a bid for re-election.

Chapman, an Asheville, N.C., pastor and a moderate, had been defeated by Robert D. Crowley of Rockville, Md., a conservative. Shirley noted that conservatives have a 20 to 10 majority on the Southeastern board at this time. Tensions arose as the new leadership of the board failed to put Chapman on the board's executive committee, a customary procedure. Shirley said that several of the board's moderates were relegated to the board's communications committee, which is considered to have little impact on decisions. Chapman was on that committee, and the moderates elected him as chairman, which automatically placed him on the executive committee. Crowley, the new chairman, is

pastor of Montrose Church in Rockville and is a graduate of Eastern Theological Seminary.

The encouraging signs that Shirley said he saw at the recent meeting were in the attitude of the conservative leaders as they realized a mistake had been made in excluding Chapman from the executive committee initially.

Shirley said some of the students at the seminary will leave and enroll in other seminaries. Others, he said, will drop out of the seminary altogether and may leave the ministry.

Foundations will withhold their grants until the situation is straightened out, he predicted. "I am afraid that Southeastern is going to become a little fundamentalist school."

Shirley recalled that there was an effort to remove him from the board of trustees following his first term. He would not have known about it, he said, except that he was alerted by a Mississippi member on the committee on committees for that year. Because of being alerted, Shirley was able to find out the basis for the attempt to bump him from the board and was able to straighten out the situation. He said that he was told that he wouldn't be nominated for his second term because he had not attended any meetings during his first term. During his first term, he said, there were 10 regular meetings of the trustees, an indoctrination session, and one special-meeting. He attended all 12 of those meetings, he declared.

Because of conservative activities during board meetings, Shirley said he almost walked out of the meeting in March, which effectively would have ended his tenure. He said he was going to stay as a trustee for his last four years, however. "We are very limited in what we can do, but I am going to stay as a voice for freedom," he said.

"I am just as conservative as any of them," he noted, "but I am 100 percent against the methods that are being used."

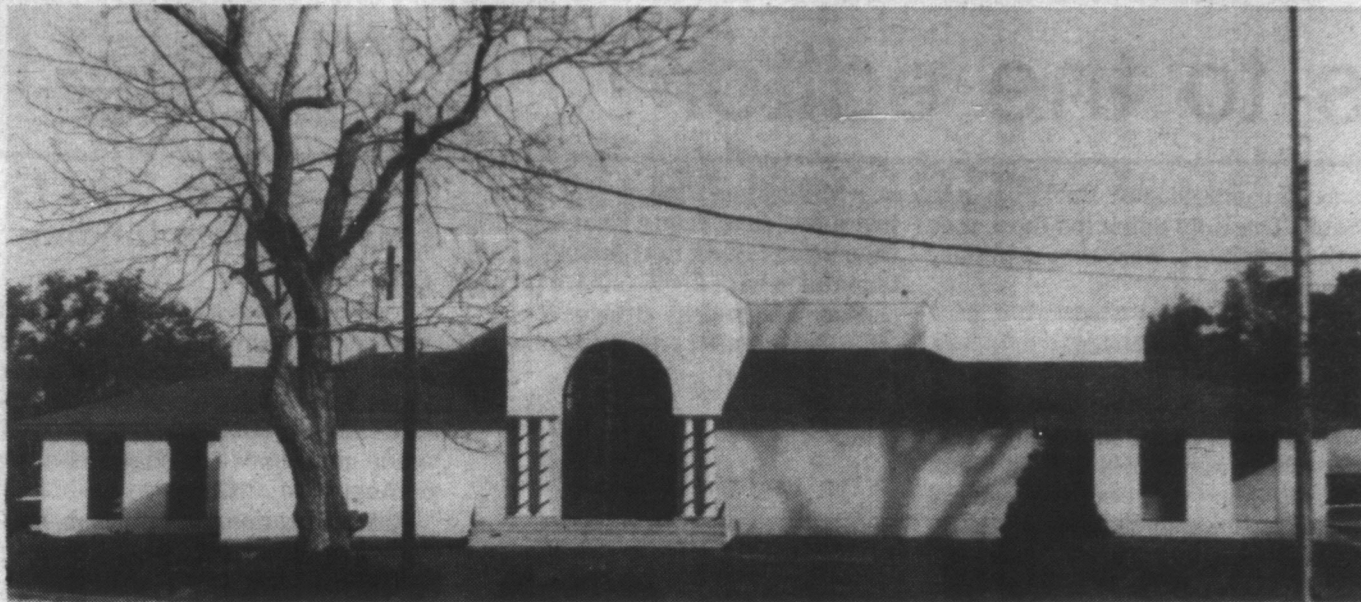
"They have used manipulation. That is the only word that can be used."

During the procedures for the election of a new chairman, the nomination committee for the board had presented its list, proposing that the chairman be re-elected. A conservative trustee rose to say, "Some of us have gotten together, and we have a substitute list." Mark Caldwell, a trustee who became the spokesman for the moderate group, objected, saying, "We have a right to know who 'some of us' are."

It was apparent that the group had got together for a previous meeting, Shirley said. The substitute list was elected. With its two-thirds majority, the conservative group can cut off debate anytime it begins to move away from their intent, he said.

Shirley's pastorate at Parkway will end Dec. 31, but he plans to continue as a trustee at Southeastern through

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Parker Hall, a conference center and classroom building at Carey-on-the-Coast, was formally opened and dedicated on

Tuesday evening, December 1. The columns on either side of the door are wrapped in red Christmas ribbon.

Search group slates Wake Forest meeting

By Dan Martin

ROCKVILLE, Md. (BP) — The search committee seeking a new president for Southeastern Seminary has scheduled two meetings on the school's Wake Forest, N.C., campus and is seeking nominations, its chairman says.

Robert D. Crowley, pastor of Montrose Church here told Baptist Press the 12-member search committee or subcommittees of the group will meet with the seminary's Advisory Task Force Dec. 8, and with other groups including administration, faculty, students, and alumni in meetings scheduled Jan. 21.

"We want to talk to these groups to see what they think they want in a presidential candidate," Crowley said. "But, we are up front about our intentions. This person (the new president) undoubtedly will be from the mainstream of Baptist life and will subscribe to the Baptist Faith and Message (statement of 1963.)"

Crowley was asked if the requirement would be that the person subscribe to the BFM as interpreted by the Southern Baptist Convention's Peace Committee, which included a statement calling on trustees to "build future staffs and faculties" from among persons reflecting the "dominant convictions and beliefs" of Southern Baptists.

Among those "dominant beliefs" were belief in direct creation of man, including that Adam and Eve were real persons; that the named authors did indeed write the books of the Bible attributed to them; that the miracles recorded in the Bible did indeed occur as supernatural events, and that the historical narratives of the Bible are accurate and reliable.

Crowley said the new president would subscribe to the interpretation, and added: "We are going to operate under the parameters of the Peace Plan (report). We are mandated to do so by the convention because of the overwhelming vote which was 95 or 96 percent in favor. That is the kind of president and subsequent faculty members we will seek."

"We are going to follow the bylaws meticulously," Crowley said. "They

say that whatever executive committee is in office at the time the president resigns becomes the official search committee. One of the 13 members declined to serve on the search committee, so we will have a 12-member search committee."

He added the meetings with the seminary advisory task force also is required in the bylaws. According to a seminary spokesperson, the seminary handbook requires a search committee to meet with the task force every six weeks as it seeks a candidate for president.

Crowley said the search committee has asked G. Paul Fletcher, director of business affairs, to meet with the group each time it meets. Fletcher was assigned by trustees Nov. 17 to assist Lolley during the transition and will become interim president if a successor is not named before Lolley leaves July 31, 1988.

Members of the search committee include trustee officers: Crowley, chairman; James DeLoach of Houston, vice chairman; Ralph Holt of Wilmington, N.C., secretary; and Arlie McDaniel of Moscow, Idaho, treasurer.

Committee chairmen who are members are James Bryant of Fort Smith, Ark., instruction; William D. Delahoyde of Raleigh, N.C., student development; Ollie Key of Augusta, Ga., campus planning; Jack May of Memphis, Tenn., communications; and Eddie Sellers of Morganton, N.C., audit. At large members are Roger Elsworth of Fairfield, Ill.; Don Wheat of Clovis, N.M.; and Jesse Chapman of Asheville, N.C.

Christine Gregory of Danville, Va., and chairman of the gifts and endowments committee, declined to serve on the search committee, Crowley said.

Crowley said the entire search committee will meet with the various groups Jan. 21, but that only the chairman and the local members will meet with the advisory task force Dec. 8. Those local members are Delahoyde, Holt, Sellers, and Chapman.

Dan Martin is BP news editor.



Madrigal Singers from Carey's Winters School of Music welcome trustees and other guests to the ribbon cutting at Parker Hall.

Carey dedicates Parker Hall

(continued from page 3)

available faculty and finance. Besides this, the trustees then are to talk more about strengthening the college's Development Office operation and about employing directors of public relations and alumni affairs.

The trustees approved a tuition increase, from \$99 per semester hour to \$115 per semester hour, effective Jan. 1, 1988. The other fees, including room and board, are to remain unchanged.

Other new officers of the Board of Trustees are vice-chairperson, Tommy King, Columbia; treasurer, Joe Dale, Prentiss; and secretary, Hugh Dickens, Hattiesburg.

Following the meeting of the boards and the ribbon-cutting ceremony, students from the Winters School of Music entertained at a Madrigal Dinner in Parker Hall, which was decorated for celebration of Christmas. Josephine D'Arpa directed the Madrigal Singers.

SBC President Rogers seeks recommendations

(Continued from page 3)

"We welcome recommendations from every corner of Southern Baptist work."

Rogers told Baptist Press: "I do not want to appoint anybody with an ax to grind. I want the people we appoint to be good representative Southern Baptists."

"I hope to appoint people who are firm in the faith and whose spirit and attitude is reflective of the spirit and the letter of the Peace Committee's report."

The president asked that all recommendations be sent to him personally at Bellevue Baptist Church, P.O. Box 40837, Memphis, Tenn. 38174-0837. The envelope should be marked "SBC Committee Nominations."

Rogers asked that all nominations be sent to him on or before Feb. 1, 1988. Under the SBC Constitution, the president must announce his appointments at least 45 days before the annual meeting.

Rogers asked that specific information be provided along with the recommendations. If the following information is not included, he said, a lot of staff time is required to obtain the information.

Recommendations should include the full name of the nominee, in-

cluding correct spelling, the mailing address, including ZIP code, and the home and business telephone numbers, including area code.

The recommendations also should include whether the nominee is a pastor or a layperson. If the person is other than a pastor, but is involved in church/denominational work, the title and place of employment should be included. For laypeople, the business or occupation and place of employment should be included.

In addition, the recommendations should include the nominee's church affiliation, the church mailing address, total church membership, amount the church gave to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget during the 1987-88 associational year, and the percentage of the church budget the Cooperative Program gifts represented.

The nominations should include the number of baptisms in the church in the 1987-88 associational year, whether the nominee plans to attend the SBC in San Antonio, and the state convention in which the nominee lives.

People submitting information should include their own name, title, mailing address, and home and business phone numbers.

Paul Harwood dies at home in Oxford

Paul Harwood, pastor of College Hill Heights Church in Oxford and former associate recording secretary for the Mississippi Baptist Convention, was found dead Tuesday at his home.

At press time there were no details available on arrangements.

Conservatives release statement

(Continued from page 4)

mandates obedience to the lordship of Christ in all matters, including the nature of the Scriptures.

3. Although conservatives themselves have multiple and sometimes differing concerns on many issues, the one substantive issue that cannot be compromised is that the Bible is "not errant in any area of reality." In affirming that the Bible is "truth without mixture of error" we reaffirm the overwhelming action of the 1987 SBC in stating that this includes:

— Belief in the direct creation of mankind and therefore that Adam and Eve were real people.

— Belief that the named authors did indeed write the biblical books attributed to them by those books.

— Belief that the miracles described in Scripture did indeed occur as supernatural events in history.

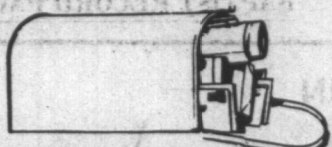
— Belief that the historical narratives given by biblical authors are indeed accurate and reliable as given by those authors.

4. The issue in the SBC is not an interpretation of Scripture, but rather what Scripture is. Believers validly differ on various interpretations, but we must never allow doubts to be cast upon the complete accuracy of the Bible as God's absolutely reliable Word.

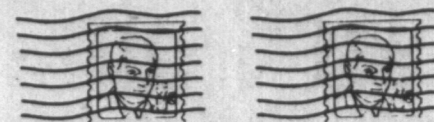
5. The continued use by "moderates" of terms such as "Fundamentalist" to describe conservative evangelicals serves only to obscure and confuse the real issue of biblical authority.

6. Only obedience to the voice of God and Holy Scripture provides a hopeful foundation for denominational renewal and a possible spiritual awakening in our country.

7. We wish to express to all individual Southern Baptists and to all Southern Baptist churches our great love and our prayers for the richest blessings of God for every godly labor in our Lord.



Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

Listen to children

Editor:

In reading my Baptist Record this week I read the article from Powerline. It seems that the one who answered this child's letter has not been in a situation similar to the one the child is in.

A child of any age knows when it is truly loved and cared about. They also know when there is a difference made between children.

Maybe she does not have a home with her mother. Maybe she just has a house there. There is certainly a difference in a home and a house. Maybe this child feels she would have a home with her father.

If she were with her father she might be more loved, more secure, happier, and have more confidence. When a person feels truly loved, he or she is more secure and can do a better job with everything they try to do.

When a mother makes a difference in children it hurts them deeply. Just because this is a child that is writing her problem does not mean that we should just write anything down for an answer. We should think before we give advice.

When children tell you their problems, you should stop and listen. I have learned that even a four-year-old can teach you a lot about life — if you listen and let the Lord give you understanding.

Pam Doss
Houston

Thanks for suits

Editor:

I would like to express my appreciation to all of those who have had a part in sending suits to Montana. I don't know if those men know how much they mean to me. I have been receiving suits now for 11 years and am so appreciative. The suits are certainly nice, but the thought of knowing that someone cares for someone they may never see is overwhelming. This has been an extremely trying year emotionally for my wife and me, but your kindness has helped ease the burden.

Bill Reily
Gardiner, Mont.

The debate

Editor:

I would like to comment on the article by C. Lacy Thompson concerning the differences and on going debate between Mr. Fisher Humphreys and Mr. Paige Patterson.

I'm just one of the dumb sheep but have been illuminated by the Holy Spirit in study to know that as Mr. Humphreys states the theology of guilt transfer to the animal in the Old Testament tabernacle is true, but it was only an atonement or temporary covering for sin. God was charging the sin to himself until the promised seed should come.

When Jesus came he took all the sin on himself and became God's Lamb

and died "in the stead" of you and me. The wages of sin is death, and his death paid the price and set us free. II Cor. 5:19 tells us where God was the day Jesus died. He was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.

God's love for mankind is the necessity of the cross. God's holiness demands punishment and death for sin. Sacrifice in the Bible always sheds blood. In the Old Testament the animal died. In the New Testament God's Lamb, Jesus, shed his blood. In the Old Testament the sin was only covered. In the New Testament it is put away forever.

It cost God his own precious son to save me, so from me Jesus deserves my first love, for he paid so high a price for me.

I am thankful I can stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made me free and not be entangled with the yoke of bondage. Gal. 5:1.

Mrs. Lauretta L. Clark
Philadelphia

Seminary requirements

Editor:

I am writing this letter under a deep conviction that someone in our Southern Baptist Convention is not listening to our Lord's command. I read with amazement in the November 12 Baptist Record that there were 426 job requests from our Foreign Mission Board. My question is, why do you have to be a seminary graduate to be appointed by the Foreign Mission Board? Why is it that our leaders in the Foreign Mission Board office don't realize that many people who go and graduate from our seminaries are not or will not answer God's call to the foreign mission field?

The article stated that there is a pool of 15,000 seminary degree pastors. Only 50 or 60 answered the call from a request of 224 for evangelistic work. Can we not see from this huge pool of seminary graduates that they are not going to go to the foreign field? Maybe we should change the policy that a person has to be a seminary graduate to be appointed to the foreign mission field? There are men and women in my church and churches in the country that I live in that are well equipped to do the work of the ministry. Are we so blind and so set in our ways that we will not change "our policies" to answer the Lord's call? Here are real, genuine needs from struggling missionaries on the foreign field. Why not change that policy that says one has to be a seminary graduate to be appointed by the Foreign Mission Board?

I close by quoting from Acts 13:2-4a, "As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they being sent forth by the Holy Ghost departed . . . Who

was it that sent out Barnabas and Saul? The Holy Spirit led these men to be appointed. Were they seminary graduates?

Milton West
Brookhaven

For many years the circumstance was that there were more volunteers than there was money to send them. And seminary degrees were required then. So it would seem that the requirement of a seminary degree has not necessarily kept people from volunteering in adequate numbers. And if we didn't require a seminary degree, then we would have to determine at what other point we would make an educational requirement. Then someone else might complain that the requirement was too high.

Because of the fact that foreign missions work is financed by gifts from the people, it is felt that those who are sent out should be the best qualified possible. The only way we have of making such a determination is to require that they attend our highest institution of learning.

As for Paul, he was one of the most highly educated persons of his day. — Editor

Marguerite Briscoe, God's Servant

Editor:

The angels' chorus will be a little brighter this year. It will be joined by a familiar friend, Miss Marguerite Briscoe.

Marguerite Briscoe was born 92 years ago near the community of Centerville, Miss. Her whole life was one dedicated to magnifying the Savior, and I am one whose life she touched.

She received formal education as a school teacher and later advanced to principal of the Power Elementary School, Jackson.

A very active church member and Sunday School teacher since 1930, Marguerite prided herself as being "the oldest single adult" at the First Baptist Church in Jackson. Through her one-woman ministry and witness many were led to salvation or to a closer walk with Jesus Christ.

I remember once, when a friend's premature infant was gravely ill, calling her during her Monday morning prayer group time. As was her practice, she answered the phone only to place the phone receiver under a pillow so as not to disturb the prayer time. Finally, as she placed the receiver next to her ear, she did fervently pray for the life of this little one.

I later became acquainted with Marguerite myself as a single adult in the same Sunday School Class. It was our practice to select names and telephone numbers out of a basket for prayer partners. She would faithfully call to share prayer with me over the phone. Although several miles separated us, through the telephone one could truly feel God's presence "where two or more were gathered in his name."

Marguerite enjoyed an independent lifestyle for 89 years. During the last three years of her life she was a nursing home resident back in her hometown of Centerville. She went to

be with Jesus on Sunday, Nov. 22, 1987, just a few days before Thanksgiving Day. When I count my blessings, I am thankful to have known such a person as Miss Marguerite Briscoe.

Melanie Leigh Fortenberry
Clinton

Who is Lottie Moon?

Editor:

Since this is the Week of Prayer, and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, I thought the following true episode would be appreciated by true Southern Baptist.

Several years ago the IRS decided they needed to audit my income tax return for the previous year. They sent a very industrious young man, who diligently went through everything. When he got to my contributions (I think was the reason for the audit) he came to my Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. He asked my accountant, "Who in the world is Lottie Moon?" The accountant, knowing that his secretary was a "devout Southern Baptist," sent the IRS man to her. He repeated the same question to her, "Who is Lottie Moon?" she said, "If you will look a little farther you will see Annie Armstrong." Since that was the punch line, I could stop. But the rest of the conversation was very interesting also. After the secretary fully explained, the IRS young man said, "I'm a Baptist, and I've never heard of Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong." The secretary replied, "You must not be a Southern Baptist."

My church, First Baptist Church, always sets high goals for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and always exceeds the goal.

Inez C. Stewart
Picayune

Silent partner

Editor:

A person needs never to be alone. Loneliness is a frightening experience. To an elderly person, loneliness can be a horror. Wealthy and famous people also experience loneliness. Even young people with all their activities have periods of loneliness. However, there is a cure for loneliness; it is Jesus Christ.

If a person will accept Jesus Christ as his personal Savior he will never be alone again. Jesus begins to live within his heart and becomes his silent partner. A person can at any time "talk things over with God" and ask for God's input into any decision he needs to make.

After a person accepts Christ as his silent partner, he can feel the presence of Christ wherever he may be, for instance, in a sick bed, on a battlefield, alone in a strange city, etc. If needed, Christ is always available to help and comfort a person.

There is no greater relationship a person can have than in a spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The words of the song, "My God and I," adequately express this close companionship.

I pray that all persons would experience this relationship with God. You could if you would: "Let Jesus Come Into Your Heart."

Robert S. Leigh
Jackson

Clarke College funding

Editor:

I have served on the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board for four years. Several times during these four years the question about Clarke College came up, but the facts were never made clear until our board meeting on August 24, 1987.

The Education Commission consistently told us that we have three colleges, not four, because Clarke College is a part of Mississippi College. Several times during these board meetings Dr. Lowrey Compere told the board that if the funding to Clarke was not restored, Clarke would lose its accreditation. "Not so," said the Education Commission. The commission said that for Clarke to lose its accreditation, then Mississippi College would lose its accreditation also.

Then in our board meeting on Aug. 24th, Dr. Nobles told the board that if the funding was not restored Clarke would lose its accreditation. I personally asked Dr. Nobles that if we only had three colleges instead of four as the Education Commission has been telling us, how could Clarke lose its accreditation and Mississippi College not lose its accreditation? To my amazement, and I believe to the amazement of most of the board members, Dr. Nobles said that it was not a full merger. He said that Mississippi College was acting as a holding company for Clarke College and that everything was kept separate.

Dr. Nobles further stated that if the funding was not restored to Clarke, Mississippi College would have no choice but to give Clarke back to Mississippi Baptist Convention. Dr. Nobles went on to say that when Mississippi College agreed to take Clarke, nothing was said about taking away the funding.

One of the excuses the Education Commission uses is that it costs too much per full-time equivalent student at Clarke College compared to the other colleges. According to the Baptist Record on Nov. 12, 1987, the cost per full-time equivalent student at Blue Mountain College was \$1,855 while the cost at Clarke was \$1,819. Why is the cost too much at Clarke and not too much at Blue Mountain?

Albert McMullen, pastor
First Church, Stonewall

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Half million refugees are among Lebanon's many woes

By Art Toalston

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (BP) — If Lebanon's civil war ended today, it could take 100 years to reunite the nation, a Lebanese Baptist says.

"Maybe a hundred years is too long," says Jean Boucheble, "but it would take a long time, because there has been so much bloodshed." Boucheble is associate pastor of Bikfaya Baptist Church, 20 miles northeast of Beirut.

Well over 100,000 people have been killed, many of them innocent civilians, during nearly 13 years of civil war among so-called Christian, Muslim, and Palestinian political factions.

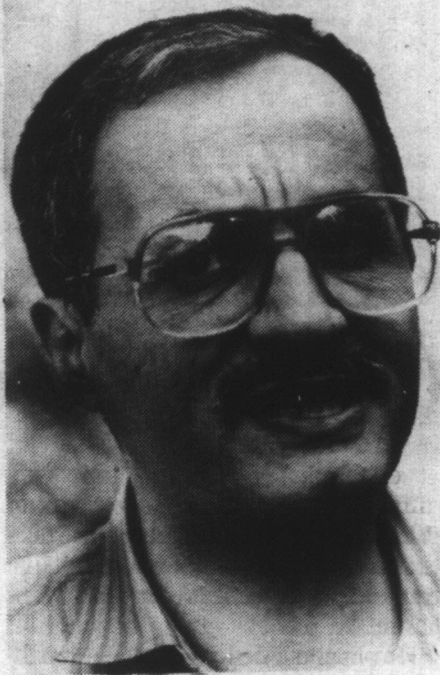
"We need God's intervention to pull us out of where we are," Boucheble says, adding, Baptists and other evangelicals in Lebanon need the support of fellow believers around the world.

Unfortunately, few people in the West know the depth of Lebanon's crisis, he says, citing newspapers and newscasts he monitored during an October visit to the United States. "There is nothing, absolutely nothing about Lebanon," he notes.

"It is a duty of Christians worldwide to protect and assist the church in Lebanon. If the church worldwide does not feel the pain of the church in Lebanon, I think something is wrong. We need to stand before God about how we are going to support brothers and sisters in Christ wherever they are suffering."

Heartache abounds in Lebanon, says Boucheble, who also directs relief work in Lebanon for World Vision International. One-sixth of Lebanon's 3 million people have become refugees. When civil war broke out in 1975, Maronite Catholics, Greek Orthodox, and evangelicals lived throughout the country. Now they are confined to 15 to 20 percent of the land, essentially in the East Beirut area.

"For most of them, there is no hope of returning to their homes anytime soon," Boucheble says. "Other



EACH FATALITY HITS HOME — "Every day, every day we experience the loss of dear ones," says Jean Boucheble of Lebanon. "Maybe they're not closely connected with me, but people that we know — or we learn that somebody was killed and it has added to another family's misery. We are a part of the people. It's not a question of whether they're related to me. Compassion is one of the qualities that a Christian should possess." Boucheble is associate pastor of Bikfaya Baptist Church near Beirut. (BP) PHOTO By Art Toalston

political factions now control those regions.

"Many live in one room — parents and two or three children with husbands or wives and children of their own, 16 or 17 people in one room. I have seen it myself."

The government is in disarray. "The people are living under the law of the jungle," Boucheble says. The economy has collapsed, bringing poverty to many who once were in the middle class. There is no redress for losses due to war or social chaos. There are no social services.

"Every political party is supported

from outside, by a different country, so it's not left entirely to the Lebanese people to decide their future," he notes.

One out of three youth in Lebanon have become drug addicts, he says, and other young adults are pulling any strings they can to leave the country.

Somehow, the church is alive and well — and ministering, Boucheble says.

Bikfaya Baptist Church, for example, is helping nearly 400 families from four villages return to homes they abandoned in the midst of heavy shelling.

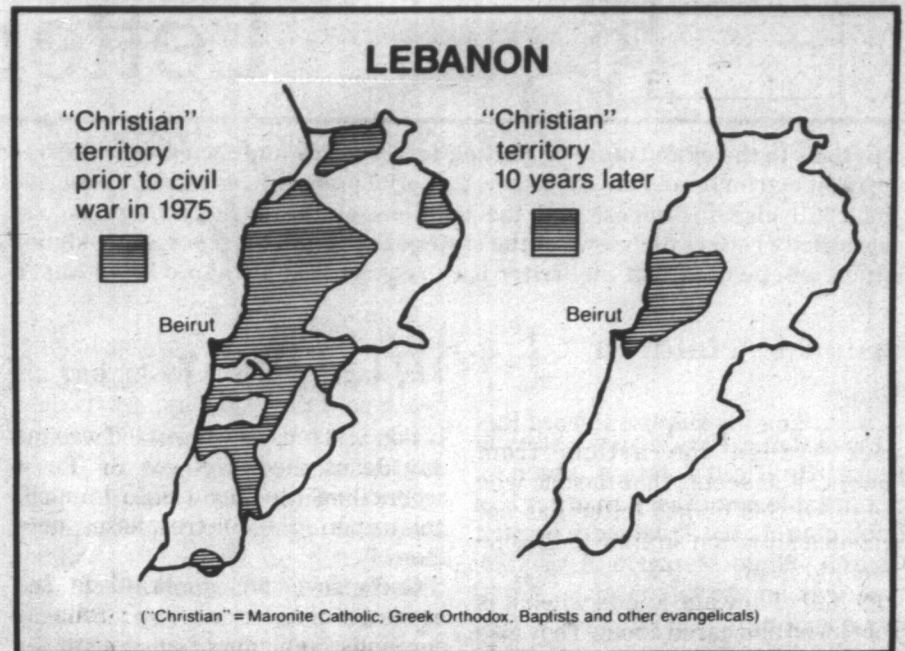
With two-thirds funding from Southern Baptist human needs donations and one-third funding from World Vision, the church is helping repair battle-damaged doors and windows. World Vision also is assisting two other small Baptist congregations with projects to help their communities.

Spiritually, he says, "The Lord is doing a fantastic work. As we learn from the book of Acts, the church grows better under afflictions and difficulties, and that's what is happening in Lebanon. Our churches are full or almost full." Sid Al-Bourshariyeh Baptist Church near Beirut is building a new facility for worship and Bikfaya may do the same.

"Not all Lebanese are turning to the Lord, but we have more people trusting God than in the good days."

Boucheble believes Lebanon's civil war has taught the church a sobering lesson. "This is my personal opinion: I don't think the church in the past was really involved in getting beyond its circle, in carrying the gospel beyond Lebanon. Maybe they had the vision, but not much was done about it, not on the scale with the freedom we had then. I think, now, we realize that we missed an opportunity. We are praying for another opportunity. And I think God is giving us a part of it back, at least within the country."

Art Toalston writes for the FMB.



LESS AND LESS LAND — When Lebanon's civil war broke out in 1975, Maronite Catholics, Greek Orthodox and evangelicals lived throughout the country. Now they are confined to 15 to 20 percent of the land, essentially in the east Beirut area. More than a half million people — one-sixth of Lebanon's population — have been made refugees. (BP) GRAPHIC

Texans meet to end 'Patterson-Pressler' rule

By Tim Tune

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — A group of about 400 Texas Baptist laymen met prior to the first session of the 102nd annual meeting of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in Fort Worth to mark what they termed "the beginning of the end of an era of 'Pressler-Patterson' rule over our denomination."

The Nov. 10 breakfast meeting was organized by John Baugh, president of Houston's Sysco Food Systems, Inc., and a founder of "Laity for . . . the Baptist Faith and Message," an organization of self-described "mainstream conservative Southern Baptists," formed about a year ago.

The group's stated objective is to end the string of officers elections won by conservatives in the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979.

"We will win," said Baugh, "with truth, prayer, and balance. We are here to discuss openly how to remove the spirit of 'Pressler-Patterson-ism' from Southern Baptist life."

This spirit, Baugh said, is marked primarily by "secrecy," "unethical" political practices and "wrong-doing."

The "Pressler-Patterson coalition" refers to Paul Pressler, a state appeals court judge from Houston and Paige Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies of Dallas.

Though Baugh's group was founded in Texas and primarily by Texans, he said that lay groups are being formed in other states "important" to the movement and that editions of the group's publication, "Baptist Laity

Journal," will be published for those states.

"We are dedicated to your right, your need to know the truth," Baugh said. "It's not terribly important which side you're on. The question is 'Will we remain on God's side?'"

Ultimately at stake, Baugh said, is the \$10 billion in assets now owned by the Southern Baptist Convention and the 37 state conventions of the 14.6-million-member denomination.

The investment of "thousands of dollars (to fund this organization) is worth it to preserve \$10 billion of assets" owned by the denomination, said Ralph Atkinson, who spoke to the group about the organization's finances and fund-raising efforts.

About half of the organization's \$15,000 monthly budget, provided by donations, goes to produce the journal. The rest pays for other expenses and the salaries of Executive Director-Editor J. Neal Rodgers and a secretary.

Atkinson, a Dallas layman, said that the organization's financial records will be audited by an "outside" accountant and the records will be available "to any Baptist."

The group also was told of efforts to expand the organization's speakers bureau, which consists of about 50 speakers, according to W. Dewey Presley of Dallas, another layman who is a co-founder of the organization.

Tim Tune writes for the Annuity Board.

Supreme Court steps back

WASHINGTON (BP) — Sidestepping a decision concerning the merits of its most celebrated church-state case of the current term, the U.S. Supreme Court instead has ruled that former leaders of the New Jersey legislature had no legal right to appeal lower-court rulings that struck down the state's "moment of silence" law.

That law, enacted in 1982 over the

veto of New Jersey Gov. Thomas H. Kean, required a one-minute period of silence "for quiet and private contemplation or introspection" in the state's public school classrooms at the beginning of each school day. More than 20 states have similar statutes on the books.

The ruling says nothing about the constitutionality of the law itself.

Lottie Moon marker

Virginia Baptists gathered Nov. 1 to dedicate a highway marker honoring Southern Baptists' most famous foreign missionary, Lottie Moon. The marker, located beside the Crewe, Va., cemetery where Moon is buried, is unveiled by Presley and Gladys Thompson, who were instrumental in having the highway department place the marker. The Thompsons are members of Crew Baptist Church, where she also is director of the Woman's Missionary Union. (FMB) PHOTO By Joanna Pinneo



Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

From the mail bag

From Rome, Italy, comes a story in Flora Holifield's letter about a remarkable new Christian in her and Bob's church, the Trastevere Baptist Church. While Maurizio, a playboy type was on the island of S. Martinique leading a "fun life," a man told him the difference that Christ could make in his life. At first, Maurizio laughed, but that night after the party was over, he began to have second thoughts. He searched for the layman and found him at 4 a.m. and he accepted Christ as his Savior.

On his way home to Italy, Maurizio was at Kennedy Airport when he was so filled with joy that he began singing and praising God and talking to one of the maids about his conversion experience. She thought he was drunk or crazy and called the police, who placed him in the psychiatric ward of a hospital. After five days, he convinced his keepers that he was rational, but simply ecstatic with joy over his newfound life in Christ. Back in Rome, he made a public profession of his faith and was baptized at the Trastevere Baptist Church. Though he has suffered the incomprehension of his family and friends, Flora says, he is showing unusual growth as a Christian. Because of his changed life, some of his old friends are now attending church, too.

From Rio, Brazil, David Gomes

sends news of the Baptist Church of Hope's missions project on Urca, where the Sugar Loaf is located. Since there is no evangelical work in Urca, the church on Oct. 12, a holiday, distributed 1,500 Gospels of John and 10,000 tracts house to house. The sanctuary choir and the youth choir sang; others delivered testimonies and a sermon in an outdoor service. Five made professions of faith. Others asked, "When do you come back?"

Also the church has a mission (one of its several missions) at Central, in the busiest part of central Rio. "The worst kind of bandits come to Central," says David. "Around Central, old prostitutes continue to live, and the social status is poorer every day." Seaport lines, railway lines, and Greater Rio bus lines, converge here at a big metropolitan station. The Church of Hope has a three-story building at Central, where three social workers, four seminary students, two teachers, and a lawyer, "make the work of Jesus," in David's terminology.

From Pelahatchie, comes a letter from Sally Stevens, member of First Baptist Church and director of the Central Mississippi Chapter of Child Evangelism Fellowship, who reports that more than 2,300 made professions of faith in Jesus, in the CEF tent at the State Fair in Jackson in October. Yet

only 350 of these were children under ten. The most were between ages of 14 and 25. Hundreds of them were teen-age boys. Names of these persons were recorded and are being given to pastors for follow-up.

To thousands who attended the fair, volunteers at the tent witnessed. The volunteers included professors, dentists, retirees, business men, college students, homemakers, pastors, and others. They represented Baptists, Presbyterians, interdenominational, and Methodists.

One with whom Sally talked in the tent, who came in to hear, was an elderly black man with curly white hair. "When I pulled out my New Testament and began to talk about heaven and went through the plan of salvation," she recalls, "he got the most beautiful smile on his face. When I asked him if he would like to ask the Lord to forgive his sins and call upon the name of Jesus to save him, he said, 'YES!' We prayed and I looked up to see tears in his eyes. He said, 'Ma'am, I've been waiting 51 years for someone to tell me that story. You see, Ma'am, I can't read or write!'"

"I can tell you," Sally stresses, "the people want to know, but they want someone to care enough to come and find them."

Like she says, "There's a hungry world out there." And they need the Bread that satisfies.



Don Eaves

Church ready to grow (when Eaves found it)

By Tim Nicholas

The first time Don Eaves was to preach at New Haven Church in Choctaw County, he couldn't find it. At five minutes to 12 he gave up and went home.

He phoned a deacon who just laughed and said to come back the next week — but with new directions.

The church — which is a few miles off the Natchez Trace on the first paved road north of French Camp — called him as interim pastor anyway and in January of 1986, he became pastor.

New Haven, which might properly be termed an open country church, was ready to grow when Eaves became pastor.

Eaves, 37, says that the Bold New Growth campaign which attempts to encourage churches to begin new units for growth, "came along at a time we recognized some needs and were about to do some things." But growth has come. There were 67 in Sunday School in November, the largest day since Eaves has been at New Haven.

The church moved into new facilities in September of 1986, which coincided with its centennial celebration. "With the new facilities we wanted to take full advantage of them. I had blocks of people who were not being reached by our church or any other church. We made an attempt to touch more lives for Jesus Christ and focus on these groups so they would not be overlooked," says Eaves.

The community has a number of unchurched young couples. A couples class was added which enrolled a number of people who were not otherwise involved in the church. And with couples is a need for providing for children. The church began a preschool class and reorganized its nursery. And it added a second children's class.

Plus, the church began a singles class, focusing on single adults. "We aren't far enough along to see what we need to do in it yet," admits Eaves.

The other major need as for the large number of senior adults in the area, people who have been the backbone of the church, who, for health considerations, had not been a part of the church lately. So, the church went to them — by starting a homebound program. Eaves says the homebound program is so effective the leader has had to enlist assistants.

"We also started two new missions units — GAs and Asteens. They have tried a men's missions group with a prayer fellowship breakfast which has

not been overly successful. The men in the church had been giving virtually every Saturday and many evenings on construction of the church building which cost them about \$55,000 for an estimated value of over \$200,000. The church did everything but finish the sheetrock and put in the carpet. Help came from Chester Church to help set the trusses and put on the roof.

"I can see needs, pray about it, talk about it, but I don't try to start anything until someone else catches the vision," says Eaves. "I support them, train them, and help them in any way I can."

Plans are in the works to train all the Sunday School teachers in evangelistic outreach, using the Equipping Centers produced through Church Training for training Sunday School workers in evangelism. "We've had a number of people who have expressed a desire for that because they have a burden in our community," says Eaves.

Leaders are arising in the church, says Eaves. The team teaching approach in Sunday School works because of some individuals not having much experience in teaching or having work obligations occasionally. Eaves thinks that in a year or two these co-teachers will take individual classes.

Some of the homebound teachers have never taught a Sunday School class before, but are "willing to go one on one in someone's living room," says Eaves.

Eaves says that because of the fact that much of the community is long time residents, there is a resistance to the church. "The common response is 'we know where it is. If we want to come, we'll come.' We've got to go out and win them first."

He adds, "I think it's easier to get a person to come to Christ than it is to get him to come to church."

Eaves is a bivocational minister, serving as a director of a funeral home and having a woodworking shop in Louisville. He feels the funeral home business is an entree for ministry — particularly when people ask him about the potentially depressing nature of it. He's been bivocational and full time pastor, but is currently bivocational by choice. "I'm just better equipped to be bivocational," he says.

"I'm not a circus atmosphere type of leader," says Eaves of his approach to growing a church. "We just try to move from step to step wherever people are."

Alliance considers seminary

(Continued from page 3)

Southeastern, which came under control of conservative trustees in October.

Seminary President W. Randall Lolley, Dean Morris Ashcraft and four key administrators have resigned rather than carry out the new trustees' agenda.

The trustees have said they will fill the administrative spots — and all future faculty vacancies — with people who believe that the Bible is inerrant, without error even in matters of history and science.

Moderate Southern Baptists, who believe the Bible is divinely inspired but open to individual interpretation, have rallied to support Southeastern faculty and students.

The Alliance executive committee voted to pay up to \$5,000 in legal fees and other expenses for Southeastern's faculty chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

The chapter was organized this fall around the issue of academic freedom.

"I am very encouraged by the action taken to establish this task force and to donate \$5,000 to help with current AAUP expenses," said Richard Hester, Southeastern's AAUP presi-

dent, who was a guest at the Alliance meeting.

"One of the most significant actions tonight was to link the Alliance principles to a vision of theological education for Baptists," Hester said.

Southeastern was established in 1950 by the SBC. It took over the Wake Forest College campus in the town of Wake Forest, when the college moved to Winston-Salem in 1956.

The Southern Baptist Convention provides about two-thirds of Southeastern's operating budget, making it possible for the seminary to give its students free tuition. Baptist students pay a matriculation fee of \$350 per semester. Other funds come from endowment.

Deciding how to raise money for tuition and programs at a new seminary is one of the priorities facing the Alliance task force. Executive committee members estimated the cost per student at \$10,000 to \$15,000, and projected an enrollment of 200 to 300 students.

Southeastern has about 1,000 students and a \$46 million operating budget, with 33 faculty and about 100 support personnel.

The Alliance executive committee also accepted the resignation of First Vice President Susan Lockwood

Wright, pastor of Cornell Baptist Church in Chicago, due to over-commitment and personal reasons. A new vice president will be named by the board in January, including a new slate of officers.

A search committee for a full-time executive director was named, to report in January.

The executive committee authorized the publication of a book on the seven principles enunciated in the Alliance's covenant, to be edited by Alan Neely of Southeastern Seminary.

It allocated \$1,000 to the Southern Baptist Women in Ministry organization to help with expenses, and the Alliance is studying the possibility of funding a part-time editor for Folio, the Women in Ministry publication. The editor also would be a liaison between Women in Ministry and the Alliance.

The executive committee voted to investigate the need for an endorsing agency for chaplains in the event Southern Baptist women are excluded and creedal statements imposed on candidates. Currently, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board endorses chaplains on behalf of the convention.

McClain is religion editor for the Charlotte Observer.

Wanted: food, clothes, linens, as needs increase at Christmas

These ministries spread across the state have Baptist involvement. They could use some more Baptist involvement, though. Listed are the directors, their phone numbers, and the greatest need. As the Christmas season approaches, and as cold weather gets closer, the needs increase. Anyone knowing of other Baptist ministries which reach out to the needy, should contact the Baptist Record quickly so the word of the need can be spread.

North Delta Association M. C. Johnson, Box 999, Clarksdale, MS 38614, 627-3417.

Need: Any non-perishable food items, Christmas candy for children, health kits, such as tooth paste, tooth brushes deodorant, etc.) school-aged children's clothes, extra large Adult clothes, and clean and usable toys.

Lee County Association Food Bank Karen Welford, 2403 Bryan Drive, Tupelo, MS 38801, 844-8646.

Need: All non-perishable food items, such as dry beans, rice, tuna, macaroni, peanut butter, jelly, etc.

Lauderdale Association Leon Young, DOM, Mrs. Curtis Ray, Box 244, Meridian, MS 39301, (H) 482-4230, (O) 483-1419.

Need: All non-perishable foods, all sizes of children's clothes from toddlers up, and large adult sizes for men and women. They are open every morning from 8:30 until noon, Mon-

day, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Gulf Coast Association Bobby Perry, Box 2369, Gulfport, MS 39505, 832-4311.

Need: The association itself does not have a food ministry, but serves as a communication point for the churches in the association who do have a ministry service. All churches are in need of non-perishable food items.

Pike Association Glen Williams, Box 1100, McComb, MS 39648, 684-9920.

Need: Non-perishable food items, winter jackets for children, blankets, sheets, pillow cases.

Love in Deed, FBC, Columbus Cindy Pelphrey, P. O. Box 859, Columbus, MS 39703, 328-3915.

Need: Health Kits (such as, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, combs, brushes, transient bags or foods that require no preparation, such as vienna sausages.

Operation Hope, Wayne Association Norma Mackey, 110-A Miss. Drive, Waynesboro, MS 39367, 735-9413.

Need: In desperate need of Health Kits (Brushes, combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, toilet tissue, paper towels, bath towels, wash cloths, blankets, toys for Christmas and food items such as sugar, corn meal, flour, etc.

Parchman Prison, Sunflower Association Charles Jones, Box 66,

Drew, MS 38737, 745-2145.

Need: In desperate need of at least 200 personal care kits consisting of the following: Shampoo, soap, stick or roll-on deodorant (no aerosol cans) and combs. Shampoo bottles need to be in the small size. Each person will receive his own personal kit.

The Stew Pot Eve Wellons, 1100 West Capitol, Jackson, MS 39203, 353-2759.

Need: Number 10 cans or small cans of fruit, canned meat, peanut butter, powdered milk, all types of breakfast foods, household cleaning supplies, toiletries, outerwear for all ages, blankets, sheets, coffee, towels, clean used and new toys, diapers, baby supplies, pop-top foods, and Christmas candy.

Christian Food Mission Robert Smith, director, Box 2422, Laurel, MS 39442, 428-0136.

Need: Immediately need meats, margarine, and eggs. Also need all other types of food.

New Choctaw Association Lee Bacon, interim director of missions; Box 265, Philadelphia, MS 39350; phone 656-7728.

Need: Clothing for clothes bank, food for pantry (no home preserves); Bibles and scripture portions in English or Choctaw; Baptist hymnals; shelves for storage; clothing rack for hanging clothes; kitchen-type cabinets.



Mrs. Rita Gaines of Enterprise Baptist Church stands with Uruguay missionaries Susan and Jason Carlisle and their daughter Eva.

Enterprise sends volunteer to Uruguay

Members of Enterprise Baptist Church read in the Baptist Record of a need for volunteer help in Uruguay. So they sent someone.

The deacons wanted to send someone to help implement Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist push to provide the gospel message to the entire world by the end of the century. Pastor Taylor Wallace approached Mrs. Rita Gaines, who works in the local welfare office and is active with

her husband in the church.

She was not able to make the trip last December as originally planned, but she did go to Uruguay July 3-12. The church paid her way.

Mrs. Gaines worked with missionary children during the mission meeting. They held Bible studies, worked crafts, held devotions, and sang songs.

"A lot changed," says Mrs. Gaines of her life. "I didn't really know about the volunteer mission program."

She says she learned that "Missionaries are real and have special needs — most of all our prayers and to give through the Cooperative Program."

Mrs. Gaines, who has given two presentations at her church, says the missions programs need other volunteers to come help and to sign up to be missionaries themselves. "I'd like to do it again someday," she says.

HMB appoints couple for California

Atlanta, GA (HMB) — The directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta appointed a couple for missionary service in California.

Howard and Tina Burkhart will be missionaries for the deaf in Fresno, California.

Howard Burkhart, a Florida native, serves as missionary to the deaf for the Home Mission Board in Fresno. For several years he served as a deaf worker in Hattiesburg.

Burkhart holds degrees from the University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary.

Tina Burkhart, a native of Jackson, served as minister to the deaf at 38th Avenue Church in Hattiesburg, and was a sign language instructor at the University of Southern Mississippi. She also holds degrees from New Orleans Seminary. Tina is currently a teacher with the deaf in Oxnard, Calif.

SCRAPBOOK

The kingdom of the heart (A song)

They thought he'd come to vanquish foes
The angels didn't lie.
Peace on earth we'll never see
With our naked eye.
We'll have to look inside our souls
To find out where to start.
He brought in the kingdom —
The kingdom of the heart.

Satan took him out and tried
To turn him from his task.
"I'll give you all that you survey
You only have to ask."
He'd forgot that Jesus owned
Every place they'd been.
He hadn't come to take it back,
He came to bring us in.

In their hearts they fashioned him
A crown to show his worth.
A jeweled crown was not the kind
He ever wore on earth.
The only crown he ever wore
Was thorns upon that tree.
He needs no crown to rule inside
The hearts of those who see.

They thought he'd bring a sword to start
To set the people free.
Instead of loosing chains on earth
He handed us a key.
The kingdom of the heart can grow
In every human soul.
Unlock the door and he can start
To make you fully whole.

—Tim Nicholas

The tantrum within . . .

By Carol McPhearson

My three-year-old son never wants to take a nap. No matter what approach I take to "explain" the benefits of nap time, he finds a million reasons to delay and if all else fails, that ever-popular, ever-terrible tantrum results. It doesn't matter to him that I know best, he has a will of his own.

How much more then does God know what's best for me? Yet no matter how God gently explains the "benefits," I too, much like my son, find a million reasons to delay. More often than I care to admit, that tantrum occurs within me. If only I would trust my Father's guidance like I want my little son to trust mine . . .

Carol McPhearson (Mrs. Danny) lives in Vicksburg and is a member of Trinity Church. She is the mother of two young sons.

Autumn's gone.

Leaving some few days ago
Taking with it leaves,
Both brown and sun streaked,
Warm days, flowers, strolls,
Leaving bareness, ragged trees
Like the unsmiling scarecrow.
Hawks argue of where to roost
To close a weary eye.
Not as you and I

Did you?

Did you listen to the morning
As it welcomed a new day?
Did you feel the joy about you
As darkness seemed to fade away?
Did you thank the Lord in heaven
For the birds their songs to sing?
Did you praise his name in triumph
As church bells began to ring?
Did you hear the breeze a-rustling
As it came about the trees?
Did you feel the warmth of its caresses
As it softly turned the leaves?
Did you stop and smell the fragrance
Of the earth as it came light?
Did you take your prayers to Jesus
As he lifted you from night?
Did you thank the Lord for blessings
And for being very near?
Did you give your heart and soul
To the Holy One most dear?

Did you pray, "Please lead me, Lord,
That I a witness be"?
Did you ask for peace on earth
And for his love eternally?

Did you?
—Margaret Shamburger
Lumberton

Autumn's farewell

Who find solace, comfort,
By a flaming fire,
Knowing when the embers burn low
God with his everlasting
Warmth, glow,
Will send sun rays again
To melt the snow.

Velma A. Windham
Taylorsville



*He knocks
her around*

SOUTHERN BAPTIST RADIO-TV COMMISSION / FORT WORTH, TX 76150

QUESTION

I have a friend who is going with a guy who really has done some cruel things to her. She breaks up with him, but she always ends up going back to him. Sometimes he even knocks her around. I want to help her but I don't know what to do.

ANSWER

It's hard to help a friend who is experiencing problems. It's even tougher when the person won't admit there is a problem, or won't make any real moves toward changing the situation. This is often the case with a girl who is being mistreated by a guy. Just as in the case of an abused wife, no woman wants to admit that someone she loves could be unkind to her. So she keeps on taking it and going back to him, hoping that "next time" things will be different.

The sad thing is that there is not much you can do until she decides she is willing to make a change. It may be perfectly obvious to everyone that your friend is being mistreated, but until she decides she has had enough, the problem will continue. So what can you do? You can let her know you care about her, you can be available to her as a listening ear, and you can encourage her to get some personal counseling. She needs to understand herself better so that she can learn why she submits herself to this mistreatment. If she doesn't know where to go for counseling, you might make an appointment for her with your own pastor or a counselor at a community agency such as a mental health association.

And of course, pray for her and let her know that God cares about her and will help her to deal with her problems.

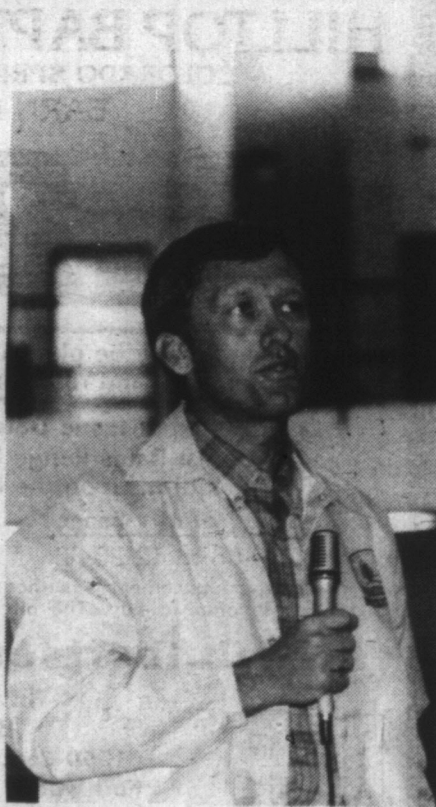
MC hosts RA Day

Royal Ambassador Day took place at Mississippi College on Nov. 7, when more than 1,250 boys attended the program and football game between MC and Valdosta State.

The program included testimonies by Coach John Williams and several team members.

Larry Cox, former missionary to Burkina Faso and now assistant director of the National Fellowship of Baptist Men, was the keynote speaker. Rich Malone, minister of youth at Parkway Church, Jackson, provided the music.

This was the largest gathering of Royal Ambassadors ever held in Mississippi.



Not just whistling Dixie in Portugal

PORTO, Portugal — "We're building for the future of music in Portuguese churches," says Southern Baptist missionary Martha Hampsher, one of 10 teachers in music schools organized by the Portuguese Baptist Convention. Forty-five students are receiving music instruction in two churches in Porto and 76 in three churches in Libson. Classes were started four years ago because of a lack of music education in Portuguese schools. Children as young as 4 may take basic music and vocal training as well as private lessons in organ, piano, and classical guitar. Mrs. Hampsher, from Williamsport, Pa., is teaching 24 keyboard students.



Clawson Scholarship Fund established

The William Clawson Scholarship Fund has been established by the Mississippi Baptist Board of Ministerial Education through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. The fund, which begins with \$10,000, will go toward a ministerial student on a rotating basis at the three Baptist Colleges. Clawson heads the Bible department at William Carey College. From left are Hardy Denham, president of the Board, Aubrey Boone, executive secretary of the Foundation; Ruthie Courtney, secretary of the Board, and Clawson.

Growth Spiral meet is set for Oxford

The second annual Growth Spiral Conference for Mississippi Baptists will be conducted Feb. 16, 1988 at First Church, Oxford. The 1987 Growth Spiral Conference held at First Church, Hattiesburg, was attended by nearly 200 people.

The Feb. 16 meeting will take place from 8:30 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. There will be conferences for each age group (adult, youth, child, preschool), as well as conferences for those churches that had someone to attend the 1987 Growth Spiral meeting.

There will be special conferences conducted for those churches which did not have someone to attend the 1987 Growth Spiral Conference.

The Growth Spiral concept does work in all size churches, says Randy Tompkins, Sunday School Department consultant. Lee Hudson, pastor of rural Freney Church in Leake Association which entered the Spiral writes:

"The first thing that was done was to provide 'Who Do' cards for every person in the Sunday School so that we would be able to begin the prospect list. Since that time the cards were passed out every month and have provided more prospects than we had been able to work... we now enroll people on the first Sunday that they come and hope soon to go to the Open Enrollment.

"Last Sunday we had 130 in attendance in Sunday School. In comparing this attendance with the 74 in attendance when we started, we see that we have had a 75 percent increase in attendance. During this time we have baptized 19 people.

"We believe that these things have happened because the Lord led us to use the Sunday School Growth Spiral Program. We made a graph of what the church had done for the last 25 years, and the highest yearly attendance average ever reached was 90, with the overall average being in the 70s. The average of baptisms for the 25 year period was four per year."

H. B. Speights, retired minister, dies in Louisiana

FRANKLINTON, La. — Hilery B. Speights, 79, died Nov. 29, at Riverside Medical Center in Franklinton. Services were held at 10 a.m. on Dec. 1 at Bethel Baptist Church near Franklinton.

Speights, a native of Oakdale, was a retired Southern Baptist minister, having served pastorates in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Louisiana. He served in Mississippi as pastor at Silver Creek Church, and at churches in Corinth, Bunker Hill, and Pearl. He was a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Donna Smith Speights of Franklinton, La.; sons, Major C. Speights and F. Keith Speights, both of LaPlace, La., John H. Speights of New York City and Donnie S. Speights of Franklinton, La.; daughters, Mrs. James K. (Hilda) Pierce of Lexington, Ky., and Mrs. Victor (Kellie) Morehead of Pearl; four sisters; 13 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

EVANGELIST RICK STANLEY



Friday,

January 8, 1988

2:30 p.m.

**Civic Auditorium
Tupelo High School
Tupelo, Mississippi**

*Presented by
West Jackson Street
Baptist Church
Youth Ministry*

Two Jackson businessmen, W. B. Rives and Roland Leavell have purchased Nationwide Bond Company of Birmingham, Alabama and have moved the company's corporate headquarters to 425 South State Street in Jackson.

Mr. Rives is the new president and Mr. Leavell is the vice president of Nationwide, a NASD broker dealer that is licensed in seventeen states.

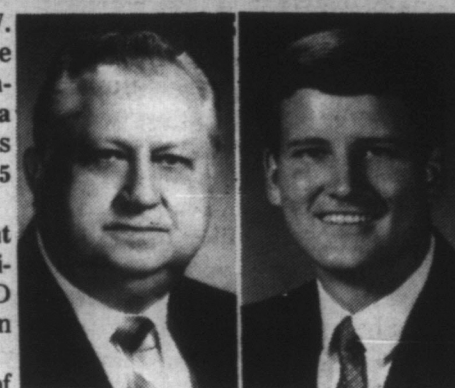
The company is a member of SIPC (Securities Investor Protection Corp.) and NACIFO (National Association of Church and Institutional Financing Organization).

According to Mr. Rives, Nationwide specializes in the financing of projects for church and non-profit organizations through the sale of first mortgage bonds. Funds from the sale of bonds are used for new construction, renovations, refinancing or consolidation of debt.

Along with their 9 member staff, Messrs. Rives and Leavell have a combined total of 127 years of experience in finance. Nationwide has provided financing for over 400 church and non-profit organizations in the 23 year history of the firm.

Mr. Rives, a graduate of Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi, received his master's degree at the University of Mississippi. He is a member of the Jackson Central Lions Club. He and his wife, the former Lucille Basset, are members of the Alta Woods Baptist Church.

Mr. Leavell is a graduate of Mississippi College. He is married to the former Lisa Rives. The Leavells are members of the First Baptist Church in Jackson.



W. B. Rives Roland Leavell



Christmas music



Sam Polk

Sam Polk will present a recital of Christmas music on Tuesday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m. at Prentiss Church, Prentiss. The program will include traditional songs and carols.



Polk was the recipient of the Judges' Organ Trophy of the Mississippi Baptist State Key-board Festivals in 1978 and 1979. In addition, he was awarded the Freshman-Sophomore Organ Division in 1980 and the Collegiate Artist Organ Division of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association in 1984. Polk received the

bachelor of music degree in organ performance and church music from the University of Southern Mississippi and is currently working toward the master of music degree in organ performance at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Assisting artist will be Mary Lenn Buchanan, lyric soprano, who received the bachelor of music degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and master of music degree from Louisiana State University. She is currently working toward the doctor of musical arts degree in vocal performance at LSU. She is the daughter of Mrs. L. P. Petty and the late Rev. L. P. Petty of Petal.

This concert is dedicated to the memory of Dan Hall and his years of service to church music in Mississippi and to Mrs. Annie Lou Walden and Mrs. Margaret Griffith for their years of faithful service to Prentiss Church. The public is invited.

The teen choir of Grandview Church, Pearl, will present the play "The Baddest Angel Band," Dec. 13, at 7 p.m. Mrs. Lynn Weems is music director. Wade Chappell is pastor.

The adult choir of Grandview Church, Pearl, will present the cantata, "Home for Christmas," Dec. 20, at 6 p.m. Following the musical a covered-dish supper will be held. Mrs. Lynn Weems is director of music. Wade Chappell is pastor.

The music ministry of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, will present the musical drama KINGDOM by David Clydesdale on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 12 and 13, at 7 p.m.

The adult and children's choirs of Flora Church, Flora, will present "Sing the Joy of Christmas."

The children's choir of First Church of Runnelstown, Hattiesburg, will present a Christmas program, Dec. 13, at 5 p.m., entitled "Wow It's Christmas," directed by Mrs. Gaila Freeman. The Christmas supper will be at 6 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Improve Church, Columbia, will present a program of living pictures entitled "Scenes of Christ," Dec. 13, from 6 until 9 p.m. This will be a walking tour on the church grounds, escorted by a narrator giving the biblical account of each scene. Tours will begin every 15 minutes and will last about 20 minutes. Provisions have been made for those unable to walk through.

There will be 12 scenes depicting events in the life of Christ from his birth to his empty tomb. About 75 actors will be involved in the portrayal of events, with many other behind the scene workers involved in the staging and production.

The adult and youth choirs of First Church of Runnelstown, Hattiesburg, will present a Christmas program, Dec. 20, at 6 p.m. entitled "Home For Christmas," directed by Mrs. Jan Moore.

Thursday, December 10, 1987

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11



Clarke Singers perform at homecoming

Pictured above are members of the Clarke College Singers as they perform during homecoming activities on the Clarke campus Nov. 21.

Activities included a coffee at the home of Dean and Mrs. James Read honoring all visiting alumni and prospective students; a program in the college Fine Arts Building in which alumni and guests were given special recognition; group meetings; tours; and a basketball game with Natchez College.

L. Gordon Sansing was principal speaker for the homecoming program. Sansing, former head of the Evangelism Department, Mississippi

Baptist Convention Board, is now retired and serves as interim pastor of Fifteenth Avenue Church, Meridian.

The singers group members are from left: Janea Savell, Linden, AL; Larry Miller, Bogalusa, LA; Kim Puckett, Magee; Brian Pannell, Newton; Rhonda Oney, Nikiski, AK; Tony Hickman, Vicksburg; Carol Ann Adkins, Philadelphia; and Gary Snowden, Meridian. Mrs. Marion Thornton, Director Clarke College Preparatory Music Program, is accompanist for the group. Clark Adams, chairman, Department of Music is director.

Staff Changes

Billy F. Duncan, a native of Opelika, Ala., recently assumed the pastorate of Highland Ave. Church, Montgomery, Ala. Duncan goes from Westmont Church, Birmingham, Ala.



In Mississippi, he was pastor of Big Creek Church, Clara, Wayne Co.

He is a graduate of Clarke College, Newton, Criswell Baptist College, Dallas, and New Orleans Seminary.

Duncan is married to the former Melita Shoemaker of Clara and they have two children.

James E. Messer, a native of Columbia and former pastor of Creola First Church, Creola, Ala. has entered full time evangelism, effective Nov. 1. Messer has been pastor of churches in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. He was licensed and ordained by First Church, Columbia.

Messer is staff evangelist and may be contacted at Shiloh Baptist Church, 717 Cleveland Road, Saraland, Ala. 36571 (205-675-3587) or 5355 Emmett Drive, Satsuma, Ala. 36572 (205-675-4073). He is available for revivals, church banquets, athletic and civic organization banquets, Sunday School conferences, and deacon conferences, etc.

Southway Church, Brookhaven, has called John Alexander as minister of education. Alexander had retired from his position as director of the Stewardship Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Tommy Middleton has resigned the pastorate of Halbert Heights Church, Brookhaven, to accept the pastorate of Woodlawn Church, Baton Rouge, La.

Union Hall Church, Lincoln County, has called Ronald Ballard as pastor.

First Church, Rosedale, has called David Sartin as pastor. He and his wife, Lisa, are the parents of a daughter, Tamra, age 3.

Missions leaders question divorce policy

By Leisa Hammett-Goad

ATLANTA (BP) — State Baptist convention missions directors expressed concern over the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's new policy on divorce during their annual meeting in Atlanta.

The board's trustees approved a new policy last summer that says divorced people rarely will be appointed or approved for HMB service unless their divorce was based on "biblical rationale." That rationale was defined as limited to adultery or

fornication and desertion or physical abandonment by a spouse.

The state missions directors, representing 37 state Baptist conventions, Canada and Puerto Rico, argued the policy was narrow and restrictive.

Several directors noted cases where a person divorced and remarried before becoming a Christian or where local church pastors are barred from missionary appointment because of the policy.

The missions directors said they perceived the policy not only closed the door to pastors who had been divorced but to all divorced people seeking appointment in any category. They concluded they will address the HMB trustees about the policy.

HMB Missions Vice President Gerald Palmer said the dialogue did not indicate a lack of support for the board by the missions directors.

Leisa Hammett-Goad writes for the HMB.

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Chaplains elect Mel Wilson president

These are the new officers and representatives of the Mississippi Baptist Chaplaincy Association. From left, they are front row: Gordon Shamburger, hospital representative; Harold Jordan, business and industry representative; Leon Adams, outgoing president; Paul Stephenson, director of hospital chaplaincy division, HMB; Mel Wilson, new president; Billy

Jones, vice president; Maurice Flowers, director of missions representative; John Dent Jr., editor; Jimmie Garrard, public safety representative; Second row: J. Ray Grissett, director of Cooperative Missions Department; Lonnie Knight, military representative.



Jacksonville school alumni elect officers

These are the new officers of the Mississippi alumni chapter of the Southern Baptist Center for Biblical Studies, Jacksonville. From left they are Jerry Stevens, director of missions, Winston County, public relations chair; Ralph Culp, pastor, Central, Golden, president; Billy Foley, pastor, Macedonia, Union County, vice president, Not pictured is Paul Blanchard, pastor, Pineview, Hattiesburg, secretary-treasurer.

Devotional

Let's get excited about Jesus!

By David Allen

Today we are entering into the thick of the Christmas season. It is an exciting time of the year. It is especially exciting for school children because they will soon be getting a break from school. It is also exciting for school teachers because they will be getting a break from the children. It is exciting for many because they anticipate the different gifts that they will either give or that they hope to receive.



Allen

Some people will get excited because they will be able to travel home to see loved ones. Others will get excited about the Christmas bonus or the extra days off from work. Some will be excited about putting up a Christmas tree and putting all the colorful decorations on it.

Many businessmen get excited about the Christmas season because it promises to be a time when their profits will increase. Some are excited because they will be going to different Christmas parties.

Yet how many people this Christmas season will actually get excited about the Christ of Christmas? As I look at the events surrounding the first Christmas, I realize that those who were involved in that first celebration got excited, but they didn't get excited about the same things we get excited about. Not once does it say that those shepherds got excited because they were going to get a few days off from the sheep. Not once does it say that the angels got excited about all the beautiful Christmas decorations hanging along city streets. It doesn't say that the wise men got excited about the chance to take a Christmas trip to the Holy Land.

But it does teach that the shepherds got terribly excited about the angels' message in Luke 2:11 that "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." In verse 17 we see that they got excited enough about the message about the Savior that they "made known abroad" or, as the NIV says, they "spread the word concerning what had been told them."

In verse 20 it says that they were "glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen..." They got excited about the first Christmas and they were excited enough about it to tell other folks about and to praise God for his wonderful gift of the Savior.

I pray that we as people who claim the Lord Jesus as our Lord and Savior will follow the example of those shepherds of long ago and that we will be excited enough about the Lord Jesus that we will share the Good News with others and that we will lift our voices in praise to God for the matchless gift of his Son, Jesus Christ.

David Allen is pastor, First, Shuqualak.

Pray for Jerone, a former prisoner and a new Christian, who has now started a church in Kibouo, Ivory Coast. Pray for his spiritual development and for the growth of the Kibouo fellowship.

Pray for the staff of the Bangalore Baptist Hospital in India as they seek to lead at least 20 patients each month to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. During the last year, 152 patients accepted Christ as Savior.

Southside, Meridian, completes Phase One

Three years ago, members of South Side Church, Meridian, had a major decision to make, according to Wayne Riley, pastor.

With its centennial celebration slated for June 1988, the congregation found itself outgrowing facilities, built in the 1930's and 1950's. Members had to decide whether to move to new territory or add to the property.

"This used to be a residential area," explained Riley, "and it no longer is." "We couldn't find a more attractive area without moving away from our roots." "We felt the future here was much brighter physically than the immediate past."

Church leaders devised a three-phase expansion and renovation plan that includes major renovation of the sanctuary, as well as renovation and redecoration of the existing education building.

Phase One, the construction of a new 7,000 sq. ft. addition, was completed



last summer. A dedication service was held Nov. 22, 1987.

The addition was designed to blend with the church's existing red brick colonial architectural design. The focal point of the addition is a dual purpose fellowship/recreation hall. With its basketball hoops and hard-surface flooring, the room easily converts from roller skating or fast paced basketball to Wednesday night family suppers and prayer meetings.

The seating capacity is more than 225 for meals.

Adjacent to the hall is a new kitchen.

The remainder of the addition houses a suite of six offices, a literature and records room, rest rooms, and work room for the church secretaries.

Construction of the new building plus equipment and furnishings cost \$300,000.00.

Students hear National Baptist student director at Garaywa

Members of the National Baptist Student Union and fellowship organization attended their fall conference, Oct. 23-24, at Camp Garaywa in Clinton. These organizations promote young people to become Christians and to be involved in Christian activities. The theme for the conference was "Students Loving A Hurting World."

The keynote speaker for the opening session of the conference was John Corbitt, National Baptist Student Union director. The evening's ac-

tivities culminated with a late night fellowship, which involved all participants who desired to express their Christian talents and testimonies.

For the Saturday morning session, the keynote speaker was L. Z. Blankinship, president of South Mississippi Congress. There was also a series of mini-workshops conducted which included: Bible study and worship service; commitment/responsibility; developing effective leaders; church music; missions; parent/stu-

dent relationships; and sexually transmitted diseases.

Attending the conference were students and volunteer directors from Jackson State University; Hinds Community College District (Jackson, Raymond and Utica Campuses); Mississippi Valley State University; Mississippi State; Rust and Tougaloo College. Total in attendance for the conference was 150. Plans are now being made for the Spring Retreat, Feb. 5 and 6, at Camp Garaywa.

Seminary extension center announces Term III schedule

NEW ORLEANS — The schedule of classes has been announced for Term III at the Jackson, Miss., extension center of New Orleans Seminary.

All courses are accredited for the master of divinity, master of religious education, and associate of divinity degree programs.

Registration for master's level courses will be Monday, Jan. 25, 1988.

Classes will meet Jan. 25 through March 14 at Mississippi Baptist Seminary, 3160 Lynch St.

Master's level courses offered during Term III will be "Biblical Ethics" (1-5 p.m. Mondays), and "Introduction to Southern Baptist Missions" (6-10 p.m. Mondays).

Registration for associate level courses will be Tuesday, Jan. 26.

Classes will meet from 6:30 to 10 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the seminary. Courses offered will be "Introduction to Counseling" (Tuesdays), and "New Testament Elective" (Thursdays).

For more information, contact the Registry Office, New Orleans Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, La., 70126.

Longtime Biloxi VA center chaplain dies

N. B. Saucier, 86, a chaplain with the Veterans Administration in Biloxi for 23½ years, died, Dec. 2 at the VA Medical Center in Biloxi.

Saucier, who was called simply "chaplain" by many people, had suffered two strokes.

Services were held Dec. 3 at Bay Vista Church, Biloxi. Burial with Masonic and Military honors followed in Biloxi National Cemetery.

A native of Baxterville, Saucier served as a captain and chaplain in the U.S. Army during World War II. Before that, Saucier was chaplain of the Civilian Conservation Corps Camps in the 1930s.

While fighting in World War II, Saucier helped carry the body of famed war correspondent Ernie Pyle to

safety behind American lines after Pyle was killed by a sniper on April 18, 1945.

Saucier graduated in 1931 from Mississippi College and in 1935 from New Orleans Seminary. He served in many Mississippi churches.

Saucier, who moved to Biloxi in 1946, served 23½ years as a VA chaplain in Biloxi. He was a member of the Bay Vista Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Macye Cockrell Saucier.

Survivors include two sons, Corbett Saucier of Leland and Hershell Saucier of Atlanta; one daughter, Virginia Faye Russum of St. Louis; one brother, Marshall Saucier of Purvis; 11 grandchildren; and 9 great grandchildren.

Walter Yeldell, retired pastor North Greenwood, dies at 70

Walter Lee Yeldell Sr., 70, died Dec. 5, at the Greenwood Leflore Hospital. Services were held at 3:30 p.m. Dec. 6 at the North Greenwood Baptist Church.

Yeldell, a native of Crossett, Ark., was a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was a recipient of an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Ouachita Baptist University.

He served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Clarksville, Ark.; First Church, West Memphis, Ark.; Second Church, Hot Springs, Ark.; and the North Greenwood Church in Greenwood. He served at the Greenwood church for 13 years until he retired in 1984.

Since his retirement, Yeldell had remained active in the ministry as interim pastor.

He was a captain in the U.S. Army

and served as a chaplain and medical unit member in Europe during World War II. He served on the board of trustees for Ouachita Baptist University.

In 1958 he was voted outstanding young minister of Arkansas by the Southern Baptist College. He served as president of the Arkansas Baptist state convention in 1964 and 1965. He also served as president of the Baptist Pastors Conference and on the historical commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Kay Boswell Yeldell; daughters, Mrs. Carolyn Staley and Mrs. Deborah McAfee, both of Little Rock, Ark., and Mrs. Linda Weyrick of Temple, Texas; son, Walter Yeldell Jr. of Little Rock; one brother; and eight grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in care of the North Greenwood of Baptist Church in Greenwood.

Former pastor at Pickens dies

James Price Brock Sr., 77, of 1668 Winchester Drive, Jackson, died Dec. 2, at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. Services were held Dec. 4 at Wright & Ferguson Funeral Home.

Brock, a retired Baptist minister, was a native of the Lexie community near Tylertown. He retired from the active ministry in 1976, after serving 14 pastorates. His longest tenure was

at Pickens Baptist Church, where he served 23 years. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Jackson.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Norma Jane Brock of Jackson; son, James Price Brock Jr. of Abilene, Texas; daughter, Mrs. Jane Brock Weatherly of Southern Pines, N.C.; and four grandchildren.

Yellowstone elects new president

The Board of Directors of Yellowstone Baptist College recently announced that Jack E. Coward will be the fifth president of the college. Coward will succeed Herbert Warren, McDonald Held, Curtis Ellis, and William C. Robbins at the Billings, Montana college campus.

Coward has served with the college for about three years as vice president, coming to the school after serving with the Home Mission Board, SBC. Prior to that time, he was pastor in South Dakota, Colorado, and Texas.

He was graduated from Wayland Baptist University and Southwestern Seminary.

Church grows from shipping crate

MOMBASA, Kenya — A congregation that began by meeting inside a shipping container, has become a church. The 128 members organized Shanzu Baptist Church into an official body while meeting under a tree July 12.

Shanzu's meeting site is much more comfortable than its previous one; Southern Baptist missionary Ralph Bethea from Memphis, Tenn., once recorded the temperature in the shipping container at 137 degrees.

Religion is like a wheelbarrow — you have to push it.

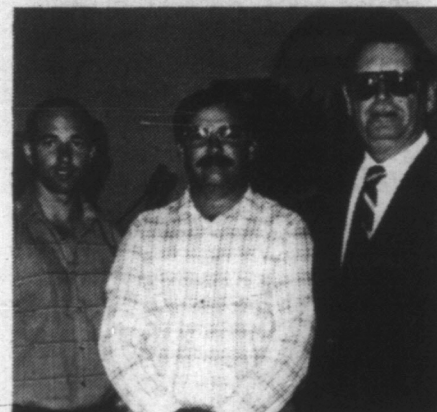
Bethlehem Church, Pinola, presented perfect attendance pins to 14 members. Those receiving pins were Sells Walker Jr., one year, David Walker, two years, Shelly Walker, two years, Brenda Walker, two years, Jean Walker, one year, Teresa Walker, one year, Alvin D. Myers, one year, Tommy Walker, one year, Mary Walker, one year, Reba Martin, one year, Christie Martin, one year, Rachel Myers, three years, Dossalean Powell, one year, and Rufus Powell, one year. Alvin D. Myers is Sunday School superintendent and Jerome McLendon is pastor.

You are not prosperous just because you get enough credit to live beyond your means.



Calvary Church, Vicksburg, held a recognition service, Oct. 25, for its GAs. The theme was "Together We Serve."

Pictured, front row, are Melissa Williams, Melanie Williams, Tina Herring, Kelli, Rush, and Dasha Dilldon. Second row, Wendy Gerald, Jennifer Thompkins, Kimberly Channell, and Susan Harris. Not pictured is Jana Riley. GAs leaders are JoAnn Harris and Shirley Williams.



Deacons who were recently ordained at Concord Church, Tippah Association, are pictured, left to right, Freddie Corbin, Doug Hagett, and W. G. Dowdy, pastor.

Corinth Church, Heidelberg, won its 13th consecutive "High Attendance Banner," at M-Night in Jasper Association, Nov. 23. Johnny H. Breazeale is pastor.



Concord Church, Tippah Association honored Mr. and Mrs. Daryl Crawford for 17 years of service as treasurer and secretary, Sunday morning, Nov. 8. Presenting the plaque to Margie and Daryl Crawford is W. G. Dowdy, pastor.



A Deacon Ordination Service was held at Linwood Church, Oct. 11, for two newly elected deacons, Dewayne Nicholson (left) and Dwight Akins (right). Also elected for a new term was Kineth Thornton who was named the new deacon chairman for the 1987-88 church year.

Shirley: "Manipulation"

(Continued from page 4)
the remainder of his second four-year term. At this point he is the only Mississippian on the Southeastern board.

He was an enlisted man in World War II and a chaplain during the Korean conflict. Here is a man who was told that he could become the chief of chaplains in the Air Force if he would stay in, but he opted not to

do so.

"That would have been an administrative position," he said. "I want to be close to the people."

His hobby is cartooning, and he plans to follow that in retirement. He says he will also do some writing. Among his writing assignments will be the Sunday School lesson commentary for the Uniform series for the Baptist Record for the last half of 1988.

BILLINGS, Mont. (BP) — The Northern Plains Baptist Convention held its 20th and final annual meeting in Billings, Mont., this fall.

The convention will reorganize into two fellowships — one for Southern Baptists in Montana and another for Southern Baptists in North and South Dakota — during the coming year.

Messengers approved a resolution noting, "Whereas we are separating the Northern Plains Baptist Convention into two fellowships, be it resolved that we will continue to pledge our spiritual and fraternal support between our fellowships."

Revival Dates

Maranatha, Hwy. 35 south of Mize: Dec. 13-16; services, 11 a.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. each night; Luther Price, former pastor of West Laurel, Laurel, evangelist; Mike Thompson, pastor.

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Names in the News



Ransom Dees (left) was honored, Nov. 8, with a reception at Calhoun Church of Hot Coffee, Covington County, for 35 years as music director. Rubin Herrin, (right) pastor, and the congregation presented him with a plaque for his many years of dedication to the church and music department.



Ricky Livingston received his nine-year perfect attendance pin for Sunday School at Evergreen Church, Winston Association. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Pharris Livingston. Pictured with Livingston are Leonard Howell, pastor (left) and Clayton Sinclair, Sunday School director (right).

Marty J. Romero, a student at Clarke College, was ordained by Society Hill Church, Oakvale, at the request of Montrose Church, Montrose.

Kenneth Stringer, director of missions for Covington-Jeff Davis Association, served as moderator and Billy Greene, pastor of Whitesand Church, Prentiss, served as clerk.

Danny Ethridge, pastor of Wahalak Church, Houston, brought the message. Others on program were Larue Magee, Roger Smith, Ray Henry, James Pugh, and Ezel Blackwell.

A reception was held for Marty and his wife, Patricia, at the close of the service.

James Earl Stewart has been recognized as Outstanding Young Man of America 1987.



He received a degree from Southwest Mississippi Jr. College. He served as minister of music at Zion Hill Church, Liberty, while attending college. He was president of the Baptist Student Union and in 1986 went as a summer missionary to Trenton, Fla.

Stewart is a junior at Mississippi College, and will serve as BSU missionary to Brazil from Dec. 28 to Jan. 13. After graduation, he plans to attend New Orleans Seminary and serve as a career foreign missionary.

He was licensed to preach, Sept. 9, by his home church, Terry's Creek, Magnolia. He is a member of Morriston Heights Church in Clinton.

Also, recognized as Outstanding Young Men of America were Bonard David Grisham, Wiggins; Donald Lynn Pounders, Corinth; and Charles Leroy Hughes, Silver Creek.



Jerry Guess of Nettleton was recently licensed to the ministry by Grace Memorial Church, Skyline. Guess (right) is pictured with Joe Holcomb (left), pastor. Guess accepted the Lord on May 9, 1979 and was later ordained as a deacon at Grace Memorial Church. He has previously been Training Union and Sunday School teacher and Brotherhood director.

He and his wife, Bonnie, have one son, Darrell.

Melanie Gay McMinn of Taejon, Korea, was among 28 Mississippi College students selected for inclusion in the 1988 edition of WHO'S WHO AMONG STUDENTS IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES, a publication that is reserved for outstanding campus leaders.

Van D. Quick, vice-president for student personnel at Mississippi College, said the 28 were selected based on their academic achievements, service to community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.

Miss McMinn, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don McMinn, missionaries in Korea, is a Baptist Student Union family group leader. She was a BSU summer missionary this summer and has served as Swannanoa pledge president, spirit chairman, and historian.

Rebecca Sanders of Vicksburg and a member of Calvary Baptist Church, W. Lafayette, Ind., is working with the Mennonite Central Committee's Homesite program in Bangladesh.

The Homesite program, part of MCC agriculture work there, works with 167 women in 12 villages to increase food production and improve nutrition and health.

The Homesite program helps rural women to use available resources more productively, rather than introducing foreign crops or techniques. Those in the program also want to help Bangladesh women increase their self-worth. Homesite staff give lessons on vegetable gardening, compost making and nutrition and also sells the families vegetable seeds, at a subsidized rate.

Dave Carter, a long time member of Pioneer Church, Woodville, received his 40th year bar for perfect attendance in Sunday School. He was 100 percent every Sunday.

Carter is a deacon and serves on several committees in the church.

O. B. Beverly is pastor of the church and W. V. Carter is Sunday School superintendent.



Carter



Michael Elmore, portraying a fictional character who tells a biblical story, appeared at the Lincoln Baptist Pastor's and Wives' Banquet on Dec. 4, and then at three Lincoln area churches on December 5 and 6. He was at Pleasant Hill, Dec. 5; and at Montgomery Church and Central Church, Brookhaven, on Dec. 6. This dramatic monologue is one of the productions at the Great Passion Play in Eureka Springs, Ark. It was written by Mike Elmore. The character, Micah, is a possible friend of Mary and Joseph who tells the story of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.



Dewey Lane, minister of music, Parkway Church, Jackson Association, was ordained on Nov. 15. He has been minister of music at Parkway Church since January. His wife, Sarah, is the organist. Presenting the ordination certificate is Albert W. Wilkerson, (left) pastor.

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Bonnie Neorr

50 men participate in disaster relief training

Fifty men took part in November training at Central Hills Baptist Retreat for the Disaster Relief Task Force. A part of that training involved National Certification for Southern Baptist Work. Courses taken included Red Cross Disaster Assessment and Food Preparation.

Training leaders included Bonnie Neorr, disaster specialist with the Red Cross, and Bob Dixon, director of Texas Baptist Men, and disaster relief coordinator for the Baptists in that state.

Within two days, ten of those trained moved into the field to help with assessment after tornadoes and high winds left damage in Pike, Hinds-Madison, Yazoo, and Calhoun Associations.



SATELLITE NETWORK, INC.

Effective: October 11, 1987

CT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 ³⁰	Joy of Music Gloria	Country Crossroads	Country Crossroads	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Moody Science Series Sunday School Lesson
6 ³⁰	This Life Westbrook Hospital	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Days and Gladness Gospel of the Week
7 ³⁰	First Love Wendell Eatop Changed Lives	Prime Times Sunshine Factory	Profiles Sunshine Factory	Word of Life Sunshine Factory	Praise Song Sunshine Factory	Proclaim the Word Frank Pollard	Sunshine Factory of the Week
8 ³⁰	ACTS Methodist Hour	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Long Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Lone Ranger
9 ³⁰	Come Alive Nelson Price	One In The Spirit Country Crossroads	Catch the Spirit Country Crossroads	This Life Great Churches of America (I)	Joy of Life Perry Sanders In Concert	Christian Lifestyle Frank Pollard Great Churches of America (II)	Popcorn Theater
10 ³⁰	Ignight Catch the Spirit	Our World	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	Bill Cosby Show
11 ³⁰	Great Churches of America (I)	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Plant Groom Jimmy Houston Outdoors
12 ³⁰	The Baptist Hour	Prime Times Sunshine Factory	Profiles Sunshine Factory	Word of Life Sunshine Factory	Praise Song Sunshine Factory	Proclaim the Word Frank Pollard	Outdoors Magazine Foundations
1 ³⁰	Sunday Selection	"	"	"	"	"	Moody Science Series Sunday School Lesson
2 ³⁰	"	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Days and Gladness Gospel of the Week
3 ³⁰	Proclaim the Word Frank Pollard	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Psychiatry and You Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory of the Week
4 ³⁰	Joy of Music Gloria	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Shippy, the Bush Kangaroo Lassie	Long Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Lone Ranger
5 ³⁰	Making Life Count Arthur Callender This Life	Country Crossroads	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Country Crossroads	Popcorn Theater
6 ³⁰	Ignight	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	Bill Cosby Show
7 ³⁰	Gloria	Profiles	Word of Life	Praise Song	Proclaim the Word Frank Pollard	Prime Times	Plant Groom Jimmy Houston Outdoors
8 ³⁰	Profiles Castle Hills Pulpit George Harris	Joy of Music Truth Alive Ron Herrod	Catch the Spirit Joy of Life Perry Sanders	Four Times Robert White	Investigation to Life	Strength Top Life Ken Hemphill	Great Churches of America (I)
9 ³⁰	The Baptist Hour Evening Worship	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Moody Science Series Sunday School Lesson
10 ³⁰	Joy of Music Gloria	Egore Theater	Egore Theater	Egore Theater	Egore Theater	Egore Theater	Days and Gladness Gospel of the Week
11 ³⁰	This Life Sunday Selection	Country Crossroads	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Country Crossroads	Sunshine Factory of the Week
12 ³⁰	Proclaim the Word Frank Pollard	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	What's Happening Life Today	Long Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Lone Ranger
1 ³⁰	ACTS Methodist Hour	Profiles	Word of Life COPE	Praise Song COPE	Proclaim the Word Frank Pollard	Prime Times COPE	Popcorn Theater
2 ³⁰	Gloria	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Bill Cosby Show
3 ³⁰	Sunday Selection	Egore Theater	Egore Theater	Egore Theater	Egore Theater	Egore Theater	Plant Groom Jimmy Houston Outdoors
4 ³⁰	"	"	"	"	"	"	Outdoors Magazine Foundations

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

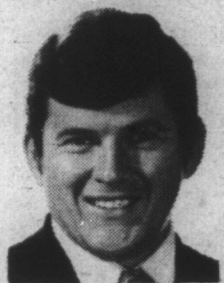
God tests Abraham's faith; Abraham passes the test

By Rex Yancey
Genesis 22:1-3, 9-13, 15-18

Abraham faced many tests in his long life. However, the test involving the offering of his son, Isaac, was the most difficult and heart-rending. Someone has said that "faith is not a sense, nor sight, nor reason, but taking God at his word." To be sure, there were times when Abraham stumbled and faltered at the promises of God. But he never lost his faith and hope in the fact that God was going to be true to his word. Consequently, he lived to see faith's reward.

Herschel H. Hobbs, in his book entitled *The Origin of All Things*, outlined this experience in the life of Abraham as the Demand, the Deliverance, and the Divine Assurance.

Ishmael had been provided for and sent away from Abraham and Isaac. The timing was not right for Abraham to be tested for his genuineness. The devil tempts us to prove us evil. God tests us to prove us genuine. Could



Yancey

BIBLE BOOK

Abraham completely surrender to Jehovah's will? God's test to Abraham involved his love for his son and his faith in God's promise.

The Bible does not indicate the form that God used to communicate this test to Abraham. He may have spoken to him in an audible voice. He may have appeared to him. Abraham may have had a vision. He possibly could have had a dream. The important truth is that God communicated with Abraham in a way in which he could understand God's will for him.

Since this test was real, Abraham must have struggled with it. How could he give up his dearest son in this way? Could he somehow as an older man offer himself as a sacrifice to God? No, God was not asking for second best. God's demand was for Abraham to give up the dearest on earth to him in his belief of the promise.

The event must be interpreted in the environment in which Abraham lived. The Canaanites practiced child sacrifice in their worship of their god. Did Abraham love Jehovah as much

as the pagans loved their god? Abraham must have had thoughts like this running through his mind.

In 9:13, Abraham came to Mount Moriah and left his servants with his son to go up on the mountain and offer a sacrifice to God. Abraham had the faith to believe that if he did offer Isaac as a sacrifice that God would restore him to life.

Abraham prepared the altar and answered some questions that were raised by Isaac. Did Isaac know what his father was about to do? Would Isaac be a willing participant or would he put up a fight? How would Abraham handle this question? He answered thusly, "God will provide for himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son..."

How can we fail to see the parallel between God's test of Abraham and what God would do through his Son, Jesus Christ? God could not give second-best. He gave the apple of his eye, the dearest in existence to him for the salvation of mankind. He provided a substitute for Abraham, but he did not provide one for himself.

Abraham laid his son on the altar and drew

back the knife to slay him. God held his hand and prohibited him from slaying Isaac. In his heart, Abraham had given the best he had to God. Therefore, his faith was found to be genuine.

God could not renew his promises to Abraham. God gave him assurance that the promise would stand. Hobbs said, "Jehovah took an oath by himself, since there is no greater by whom to swear" (22:16-18).

God repeated some past promises and added a new one. "Thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies." This promise does not refer to the Jews, but rather to Christians who would come through the seed of Abraham centuries later. This is obviously a promise of victory. His descendants would rule over the gates of their enemies.

Isaac was dearly loved by Abraham. Yet, Abraham would give him to God because of his tremendous faith in God's word. No wonder Abraham was called a friend of God. Abraham's love and act of faith pointed to the time when God would give his only begotten Son for the sins of the world.

Rex Yancey is pastor, First Quitman.

A new beginning: Jesus comes to make all things new

By Julian W. Fagan III
Matthew 1:1-25

Joseph must have taken the news hard. Perhaps he began to notice physical changes in Mary; perhaps emotional; perhaps she just came out and told him. No matter how, the acceptance of a pregnant fiancée was more than he could bear. He decided to put her away, meaning to divorce her. The engagement was legally binding upon the Jews and could be dissolved only by divorce. The engaged couple did not live together, but were considered to be legally obligated to one another. A betrothed couple were considered husband and wife, with the exceptions they did not engage in sexual relations and they did not live under the same roof.

Joseph was a righteous man. Even though he hurt, he did not want to see Mary subjected to public disgrace. So, he decided to terminate the relationship quietly (Mt. 1:19). What would you have done with a pregnant fiancée who you knew to be carrying a child that you did not father? To Joseph it was necessary to conclude that Mary had been unfaithful to him; he considered the marriage over.



Fagan

UNIFORM

Then the Lord came. Yes, the Lord came — to Joseph. The Lord made Joseph aware through a dream that Mary had been faithful to him. More than faithful to Joseph, she had been faithful to the Lord and had been chosen to be the mother of the Christ. The Lord revealed to Joseph that the child in Mary's womb was conceived by the Holy Spirit of God. This miracle child would be a son who would save his people from their sins.

The event in which Joseph would play such a large part had been foretold by the prophet Isaiah, the birth of a child to a virgin (Is. 7:14). The Scripture had even foretold what the people would call him — Immanuel, which means "God with us." The Lord gave Joseph the name he was to give the child, Jesus. The Lord had told Mary the same (Lk. 1:19). Jesus means "the Lord saves."

While Joseph and Mary were bewildered over the events they were experiencing, God was bringing salvation into our world through the virgin-born child. He was Mary's son and human; he was God's Son and divine. He was the Christ come to man, the God-man. Joseph undoubtedly did not understand all he experienced, but he obeyed God and took Mary

home as his wife but had no union with her until after the birth of the child. Joseph gave him the name Jesus.

What happened to Mary and Joseph will not happen again. No other child will be born in this way. This child was special, so special. He was the Savior of the world. He was sent in order that his people would be saved from their sins. He came to be among us to show us what life really is. He came to give life to all who would believe in him.

The forgiveness that Jesus brings is not earned. It is not a question of worthiness on our part. Look at the list of people in the genealogy of Jesus that Matthew gives — Judah and Tamar who were less than honorable, Rahab the harlot, Ruth the Moabitess, David the adulterer and murderer, Solomon the wise fool. The genealogy is physical, but several of these are also listed in the roll call of faith in Hebrew 11. Forgiveness is not based on worthiness but on the grace of God. Love and grace are the moving forces behind the coming of the Christ.

God works in strange ways and through unlikely people; his ways are not our ways. Adults who desire to find forgiveness for their sins can find help in Jesus, "because he will save his people from their sins" (v. 21). God does not require our perfection, only our trust. Those who are hesitant to make a commitment

to Christ due to fear of inability to live consistently for him should study the meaning of "Immanuel;" Jesus is "God with us." People belong to God not because of their worth, but because of Christ's work and their faith in him.

When the genealogy of Jesus is studied, a new face appears on the lives of the people listed. Mary and Joseph experienced a totally new beginning in their relationship and in their lives because of Jesus. Christ's birth brought a new start to the entire Jewish nation. Jesus brings a new beginning to every person who trusts him for the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus gives new birth, new life. He came and has made all things new. He even gives a new start to those who have formerly trusted him and slipped back from true discipleship. He restores and refreshes and revitalizes life that is committed to him. This child of miraculous birth births a miracle in the life of every human who will trust him. Miracles abound with him. New life exudes from him. Sins forgiven, burdens removed, consciences cleared, guilt washed away, and purpose restored — all this is found in the Christ. A new beginning, a clean slate, a fresh start, for all who commit and recommit their lives to him. Yes, even for the teacher. What a miraculous birth!

Julian Fagan is pastor, First, Pontotoc.

Experiencing joy and peace

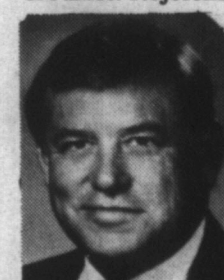
By Al Finch
Philippians 3:20-21, 4:4-9, 11-13

For a man unjustly in prison to urge his friends to "rejoice in the Lord alway" seems incredible. Rejoicing is conditional: "in the Lord."

The motive enables pain, suffering, and difficulty to be accepted with joy. Paul saw his sufferings as an experience growing out of his relationship to the Lord, Jesus Christ. His sources of joy and peace are evident.

First, there is the EXPECTATION of the return of Christ (Philippians 3:20-21).

His manner of life was other worldly ("in heaven"). He was looking for the coming of



Finch

LIFE AND WORK

Christ who would change the worldly conditions into heavenly ones. This was possible because Christ had subdued the world and conquered it. Christ would return as victor and Paul would be "fashioned" into victor. This hope of the return of Christ became the source, for Paul and millions of other believers, of constancy and joy in the destructive events of life.

Also, joy finds its source in the character of the sufferer (Phil. 4:5-6). "Moderation" had been variously translated. One of the best words describing this life quality is "magnanimity." The character quality is an enlargement of the best in life. Literally the believer lives a life that

is beyond him in his own energy. Again the motivation for this quality is "the Lord is at hand." When God is not present men resort to bitterness and a narrow, pinched existence. The magnanimous life is free from anxiety and gives way to "prayer and supplication with thanksgiving."

Paul clearly understood that joy and peace COME FROM GOD (Phil. 4:7, 9, 13). It is the "peace of God." The "God of peace shall be with you." Phil. 4:13 could be translated "I can BE all things through Christ which strengthens me." Only by the creative energy of God in life can the difficult be accepted with joy and peace. God makes this available to all.

Finally, peace and joy come from a POSITIVE MIND SET (Phil. 4:8, 11, 12). Phil. 4:8 indicates that the mind is to be focused on

the finest and best in life. God "shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:7). William James said, "A man is what he thinks about all day long." Jesus said, "As a man thinketh... so is he." No man can live victoriously if his mind is in the gutter.

Perhaps the key is Phil. 4:11: contentment with what life offers. It is not what happens but how we react to what happens that determines what we are. Highs and lows are not leveled to sameness. Each has its lesson to be learned. Yet the mind is focused on the good of each event.

Only the strength of Christ can enable us to live and serve in a world that is governed by evil.

Al Finch is pastor, First, Greenwood.

Baptist Record



Southern Baptist long-distance runner Stan Cottrell (left) entitled his 1984 autobiography "No Mountain Too High" after running across the United States and Europe. But he admits he was tempted to revise the motto after running more than 250 miles in mountainous South Korea. Korean Baptist pastor

Paek Shin Gi (center) ran the whole distance with Cottrell. Korean police escorted the athletes, who ran to salute the Korean people and draw national attention to Baptist ministry. (BP) PHOTO By Mickey Grant

Trio runs through S. Korea

By Erich Bridges

SEOUL, South Korea (BP) — Long-distance runner Stan Cottrell ran more than 250 miles in 10 days to salute the people of South Korea and Baptists there.

That's about "a marathon a day," said Southern Baptist missionary David Bishop, who organized the late October-early November run from the southern city of Mokpo to Seoul.

Korean Baptist pastor Paek Shin Gi ran the entire distance with Cottrell. Bishop, a competitive marathon runner, joined the two for long portions of the run.

The distance was no big deal for Cottrell, a Southern Baptist who attends First Church, Atlanta. He has amazed the sports world for years with his record-setting runs across the United States, Europe and China. But Cottrell was almost ecstatic about Korean response to his latest feat.

"This is the best of the best," he said after finishing the run in Seoul where he was welcomed at the city's Olym-

pic committee headquarters by Baptists, missionaries, Korean and International Olympic Committee officials, and American Ambassador James Lilley. Seoul will host the Summer Olympics next year, and Baptists and missionaries plan a variety of ministries.

Escorted from start to finish by Korean police, the Baptist trio ran through dozens of towns and villages along the route, meeting with mayors and other officials and speaking in churches. On one Sunday morning Cottrell spoke in three churches within 90 minutes, running from one to the next. But he said spontaneous encounters meant the most to him.

"The farmers would come up out of the rice fields and stand on the side of the road. People would blow their horns and wave — the shop owners, the people in cars and buses," he related.

People seemed to appreciate that someone would "care enough about their country and about them to come

and meet them on this kind of one-on-one and person-to-person basis," Bishop said.

Both national television networks broadcast numerous reports on the run, providing wide public exposure for Baptists.

"There were lots of little towns where the Baptist pastor was able to go to the mayor or even the governor in one situation," Bishop said. "They were able to be seen a little more as community leaders by being seen as responsible for bringing this event as it moved along the country and got nationwide news coverage. They gained some status, or 'face' if you will, in their communities."

"China Run," the film documentary of Cottrell's 1984 journey across China, has been seen in Atlanta and Los Angeles and soon will be distributed across the United States, he said. He added he also has received permission to run across Vietnam early next year.

Erich Bridges writes for the FMB.

Missionaries weather violence in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP) — Southern Baptist missionary Mark Rutledge feels relatively safe amid the violence in Haiti but asks for prayer for fellow missionaries who are new to Haiti.

The first election in Haiti in 30 years was scheduled Nov. 29 but was called off because of widespread violence shortly after polls opened. At least 15 people were shot or hacked to death at one polling station by killers opposing the election, and 12 other deaths were reported.

"I personally did not go to church yesterday (Nov. 29) on the recommendation from most of the people I know here who said it wouldn't be too safe," Rutledge said. Some polling stations

were located at churches, and "the worst place you could have been was at the polls and out on the street," he explained.

Rutledge said he hadn't heard of any Haitian Baptists being attacked or injured during violence. The executive committee of the Haitian Baptist Convention met two days before the election, he reported. The committee met in northern Haiti, where less violence has occurred.

Until the election, Rutledge had been going to language school two hours daily and to his office to handle administrative work related to well-drilling projects and an agriculture school. After the violence passes, he said, he will resume normal activities.

Texans aid tornado victims

By Ken Camp

PALESTINE, Texas (BP) — When tornadoes slashed an arc through central and eastern Texas Nov. 15 — leaving 10 dead, more than 150 injured, and hundreds homeless — Texas Baptists responded within hours to help put together the pieces of shattered lives.

Two members of First Church, Whitehouse, Elizabeth Schultz and Linda Smith, were among the tornado fatalities, said Pastor Curtis French.

Other members sustained serious damage to their homes, and at least one member's house was almost completely destroyed.

First Baptist of Whitehouse was established as Red Cross emergency headquarters for disaster relief in the southern Smith County area.

In Palestine, one of the hardest-hit communities, an emergency shelter was established at Southside Baptist Church almost immediately after the storm struck. The Texas Baptist

Disaster Relief Mobile Unit arrived before dawn Nov. 16 and was set up on an abandoned discount store parking lot near the most devastated residential area in town.

About 2,100 meals were served the first two days after the storm. Members of Southside Baptist in Palestine worked around the clock for three days after the tornadoes, operating an overnight shelter, a food pantry and a hot-meal service.

The Texas Baptist Temporary Emergency Child Care Unit was moved into Palestine Nov. 19. The unit has been approved by the Texas Department of Human Resources as a licensed childcare center in disasters. Care is provided during daylight hours, allowing children to get a hot balanced meal at noon and providing parents time to clean up homes and businesses.

Ken Camp writes for Texas Baptists.

"Full Gospel" church is dropped

LUMBERTON, Texas (BP) — Pastor Richard Vaughan and three other messengers from Fletcher Emmanuel Baptist Church here, arrived at the annual meeting of Emmanuel Baptist Association in Kountze, Oct. 19, only to learn their church had been dropped from the association's membership rolls.

The association's executive board voted Sept. 17 to withdraw membership from Fletcher Emmanuel Church and deny messengers from the church to participate in the annual meeting.

The executive board found the church to be "heterodox in the faith and disorderly in practice" in withdrawing fellowship from the church, the largest in the association and a perennial leader in baptisms in Southeast Texas.

Among "heterodox" positions of the church, the committee said, were statements regarding healing, casting out demons, speaking in tongues and allowing dual membership. Vaughan was quoted as having said "true" New Testament churches follow such practices.

Vaughan told the Baptist Standard that by "true" he said he meant "complete." The association action will not

affect the church's participation in Texas and Southern Baptist conventions.

Texas Baptist 'consortium' will offer Bible courses

DALLAS (BP) — Students at five state universities in Texas will be able to receive transfer credit from the Texas Baptist university of their choice for biblical studies courses offered through the Baptist Student Union beginning this spring.

The new procedure, made possible through an unprecedented consortium-style arrangement involving Texas Baptists' eight universities, will be used at the five state universities that have severed relationships with denominationally-affiliated Bible

chairs.

"We believe this cooperative venture represents a new day for Texas Baptists as we seek to fulfill our longstanding commitment that every student on a college or university campus in Texas should have access to biblical studies courses," said Jerry Dawson, director of the Christian Education Coordinating Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The transfer procedure will be in effect for the spring semester at the University of Texas campuses in

Austin, El Paso and Arlington, at Texas Tech University in Lubbock and at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls.

Dawson noted Baptist involvement in the traditional arrangement has been built upon three guiding principles: church-state separation will be protected; courses will be offered as free electives to students in a non-sectarian manner; and biblical content instructors will realize they are guests at the university, operating at the invitation of the host school.

Baptist Record

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